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# FRESH FACES

**5 Hottest Freshmen  
This Spring**

including Taylor Martinez

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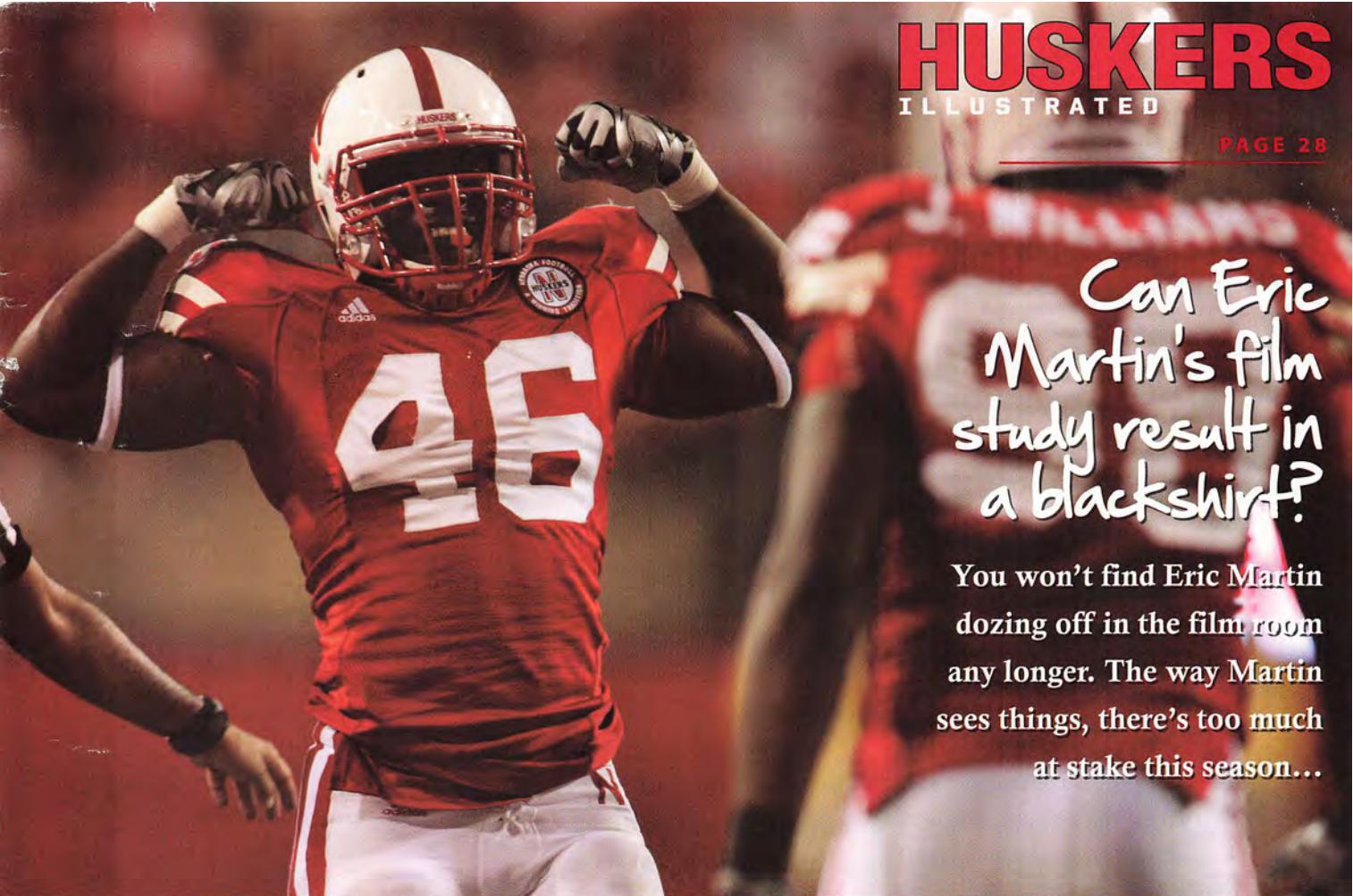


Larry the Cable Guy now has his own \$5 Scratch game from the Nebraska Lottery. **There are 16 ways to win, with a \$32,000 top prize.**

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MAY, 2010 • VOLUME 30 • NO. 5

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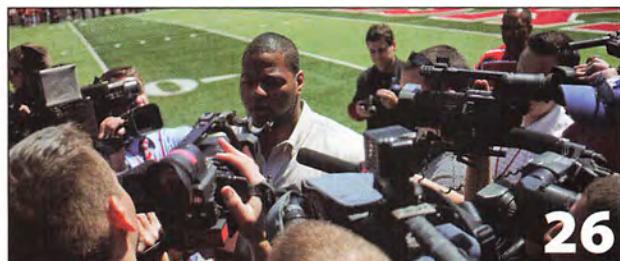
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DETROIT LIONS LAND SUH WITH NO. 2 PICK

**26****HUSKERS**  
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### ON THE COVER

TAYLOR MARTINEZ was a pleasant surprise for Husker fans this spring, entering the race for the starting quarterback job. While the redshirted freshman lacks experience, he proved he is a dangerous threat in the open field with his blazing speed.

Photo by Scott Bruhn

### NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 6, the annual yearbook, previewing the 2010 season will be mailed in early June. Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).

## LEAVING A LEGACY

### Suh closes chapter at Nebraska in dramatic fashion



**THOMAS SCOTT**, an icon in the American railroad industry in the 1800s once said, "A man cannot leave a better legacy to the world than a well-educated family."

If that is true, Ndamukong Suh will be leaving the world a number of educated families. And in typical Suh fashion, he did it in dramatic fashion.

Suh stood at midfield at Memorial Stadium, during the first timeout of the spring game. The mountain of a man was all smiles. And who could blame him? Is there anything better than seeing somebody receive a great gift?

Nearly 80,000 fans watched his pre-recorded message on the video boards, announcing he was donating \$2 million to the Nebraska strength program and another \$600,000 to the College of Engineering.

His message was overpowered by the loudest "Suuuuh" chant of the year.

As if his performances on the field weren't enough.

As if putting the Nebraska football back on the national scene wasn't enough.

With his gift, he secured his status as an icon in the hearts of Husker fans and

left an imprint that will impact students and athletes at the university for years to come.

Suh's donation is not only a rarity among professional athletes, but it ranks among the largest by an athlete to his alma mater. All this BEFORE he had been drafted.

While the results of his gift to the athletic department will be most visible, his gift to higher education was most endearing.

The son of a teacher, I'm sure his mother, Bernadette, was never so proud. His gift to the College of Engineering will be in the form of an endowed scholarship, allowing students to pursue a dream of an education in engineering.

After that, it seemed only fitting for him to take center stage one last time. This one came in front of a national audience for one last honor – the No. 2 overall pick by the Detroit Lions in the NFL Draft.

Based on his history, it won't take long for Suh to become a legacy in the hearts of fans in Michigan as well. **N**

*Send me your comments or story ideas to [aaron@huskersillustrated.com](mailto:aaron@huskersillustrated.com).*

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## 2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, April 17	Spring Game	Memorial Stadium	1 p.m.
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	TBA
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	TBA



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## A PESO FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

If you're old enough, you might remember this cheer from high school athletic events: "Two bits, four bits, six bits, a peso, all for (insert high school) stand up and say so."

A variation of the cheer used "dollar" for "peso" and "holler" for "say so."

The variation was more accurate from a currency standpoint since two bits referred to a quarter. But peso was currency as well, in Mexico, and it was all about rhyming, anyway. ▶▶



SCOTT BRUHN

Nebraska now uses "peso" to refer to its defensive alignment, though again there appears to be no clear correlation between the term and what it describes. When asked about the use of "peso," defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** replied: "It means 'five.'"

He immediately reconsidered, however, and added: "It doesn't have any meaning except we were trying to think of another word for nickel, five, so it's five. I took Latin, so..."

"Peso" means "weight" in Spanish. The word for five is "cinco."

Remember, NFL wide receiver and Dancing with the Stars contestant **CHAD JOHNSON** changed his last name to **OCHOCINCO** to reflect his jersey number, 85 – except, of course, the Spanish word for 85 is not ochocinco, even though eight is "ocho" and five is "cinco."

Anyway, in the Huskers' "peso" defense, the nickel is always

## "NOT ONE CALL IS CHANGED"

CARL PELINI

on the field, stepping up in the box like a linebacker at times and functioning as a fifth defensive back at others.

"A lot is being made of nothing," said Pelini. "Not one call is changed. Literally, when they're (opponents) in a base offensive package, we are playing with three linebackers. And when they are in an open-set, we are playing in a nickel defense. We just have one guy who we expect to play a linebacker spot in a base set and be our 'adjust' guy out of the box when they go one-back."

The reason for the peso? "So many teams are getting into big personnel and then spreading you out, which gives you a disadvantage if you've got three big linebackers in the game," Pelini said.

As he knows, the Latin word for five is "quinque." But "peso" sounds better.



### HI'S TOP 5

## Hottest freshmen this spring



*Although those who have yet to play are off-limits to reporters, these five were among the most-discussed freshmen coming off redshirts in the spring:*

- 1 THAD RANDALL**, defensive tackle: Defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** on Randall: "He's going to play. I mean, Thad's going to play."
- 2 JASON ANKRAH**, defensive end: Ankrah and Randall practiced with the top units throughout last season "because we knew they were going to figure in this year," said **CARL PELINI**.
- 3 TAYLOR MARTINEZ**, quarterback: **NILES PAUL** on Martinez: "He's a fast guy. He gets out there. He gets going. He throws a hard ball. He's working on his accuracy."
- 4 BRENT QVALE**, offensive line: Qvale probably would have seen action if not for a season-ending injury. He figures to be the swing guard, behind **KEITH WILLIAMS** and **RICKY HENRY**.
- 5 JEREMIAH SIRLES**, offensive line: Sirles continued to practice with the top units until he was injured. He could be the swing tackle.



## WIN, FIRST OF ALL

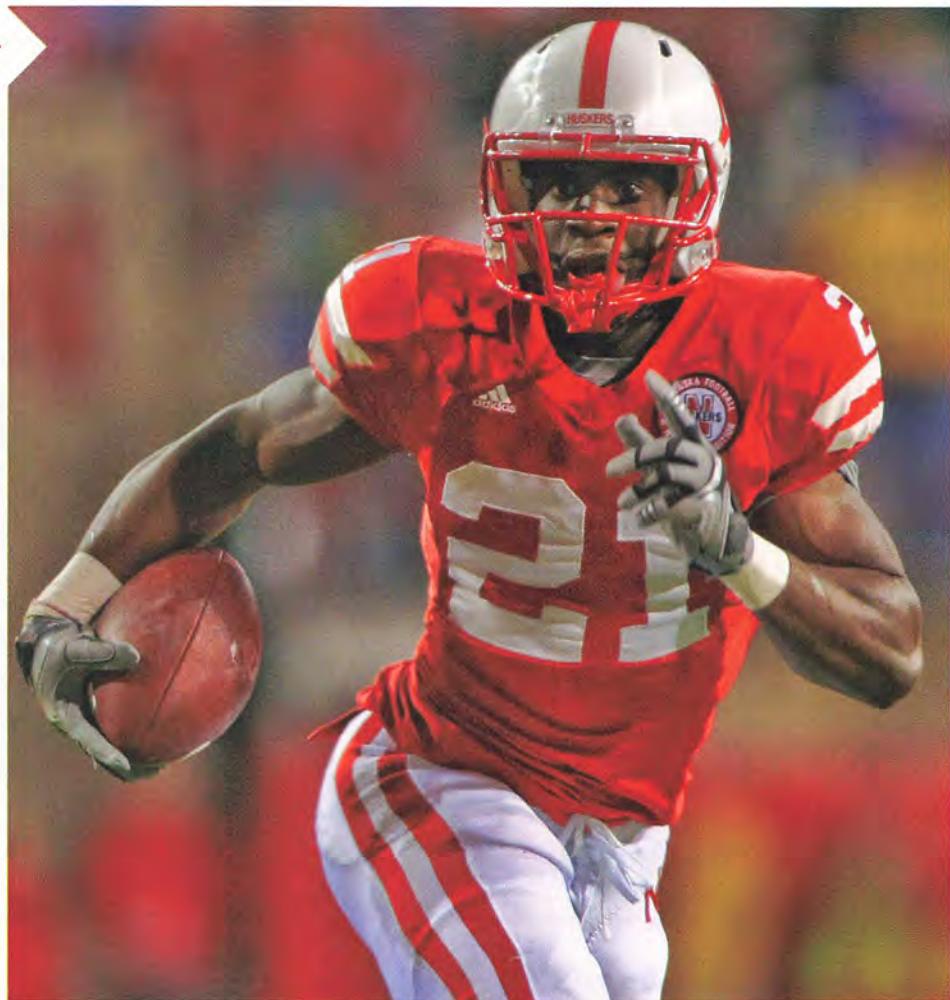
**PRINCE AMUKAMARA** was asked about the attitude of the team going into spring practice. "I think our swagger – is what we call it nowadays;

I don't know if you guys know what that means – our swagger, for sure, has been turned up," the All-Big 12 cornerback replied.

Following a practice early in the spring, **BO PELINI** admitted not knowing for sure what swagger was.

"They can swagger all they want; they've got to execute," he said. "That's all we care about.

"You can swagger as long as we win football games."



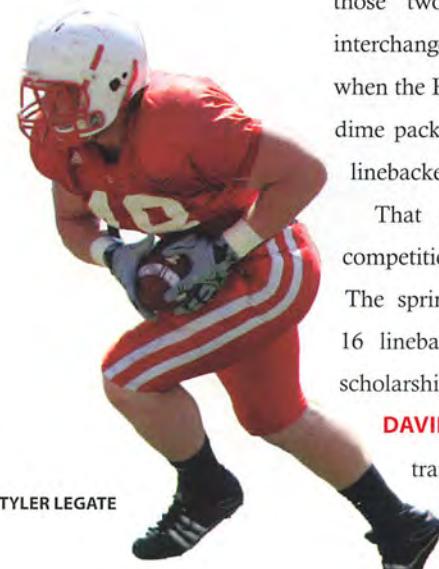
### TOUGH TYLER

Junior **TYLER LEGATE** is a good fit in Nebraska's fullback tradition. Take it from **REX BURKHEAD**, for whom he blocks. "Oh, hard-nosed, tough kid, really tough kid, always brings energy to practice and toughness to the offense," said Burkhead. "He's a miniature, I guess you would say, **BROCK LESNAR**.

"That's kind of what we call him. He's a tough kid."

The 6-foot-3, 265-pound Lesnar is the mixed martial arts UFC Heavyweight champion.

The 5-10 Legate is listed at 235 pounds, 10 heavier than a year ago, though he weighed about 232 during the spring. "I needed to get a little more lead in my butt," he said.



TYLER LEGATE

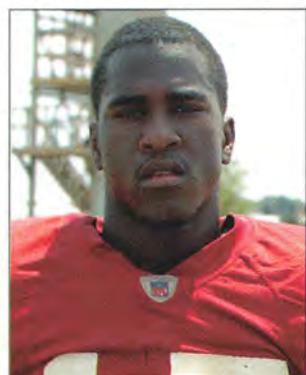
### FEWER JOBS

With the nickel back replacing a linebacker in the "peso" defense, Nebraska now has only two true linebackers in its base alignment. And those two linebackers are interchangeable. In addition, when the Huskers are in their dime package, only one true

linebacker is on the field.

That creates a lot of competition at linebacker. The spring roster included 16 linebackers, with 4-star scholarship recruit **LAVONTE**

**DAVID**, a junior college transfer, arriving in



the fall.

"It gives you great depth at linebacker is what it does," said defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI**. "And we already had great depth at secondary, so I think it makes you a better football team."

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AARON BABCOCK

## EXTRA WEIGHT HELPS

I-back **REX BURKHEAD**, who weighed about 194 when he arrived last summer, is 10 pounds heavier than when he finished his freshman season. He weighs 210, and the extra weight has made a noticeable difference, "definitely, not getting tackled as easy, not getting thrown around as easy," he said.

The decision to add weight was "mutual," between him and the coaches.

"When you get to college, everyone is bigger. You have to get bigger yourself to be able to withstand the contact here," said Burkhead. "It's injury prevention, too."

He missed five games last season because of a broken foot, which wouldn't have been prevented by the additional weight.

### INSIDE IT IS

**MIKE SMITH**, for whom size has been an issue ever since he was moved from defensive end to the offensive line soon after arriving at Nebraska, has been the starting left tackle each of the last two seasons. But

he was moved to center during the spring.

"Mike is very athletic, and I think he's going to help us out probably more as an inside player," offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** said the first week of practice.

"That's kind of more his body type, his athletic ability. We want guys inside that can run because we pull those guys so much. So we're going to give him a look."

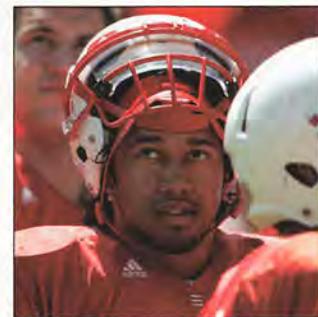
Smith was philosophical about the position switch.

"Really, what could I do? I'm just here to help the team win," he said. "So whatever they want me to do, I'm willing to do: guard, center, tackle. I'm just all in for the team."

"And if that means being a back-up, I'm just going to do whatever I can."

Smith's ability to play any of the line positions also is valuable when setting a travel roster. Plus, "we need his intelligence in the offensive line to help make the right calls," said tackle **MARCEL JONES**.

## SIDELINES



### SKY'S THE LIMIT

**ROY HELU, JR.** took a more vocal leadership role during the spring, according to running backs coach **TIM BECK**. "I think I see a different mentality in Roy...which I'm very pleased with," Beck said.

"His work ethic has always been good. His toughness is improving. I'm very pleased with what I've seen in his ability to get the tough yards right now."

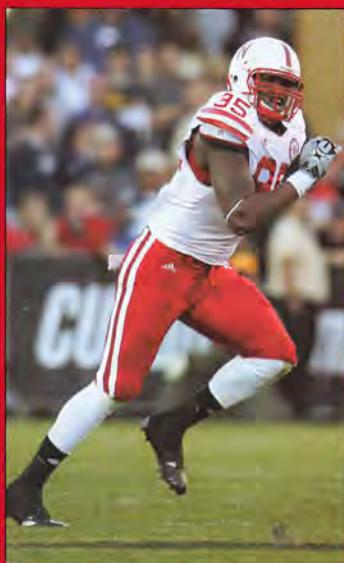
Despite a nagging shoulder injury, Helu rushed for 1,147 yards and 10 touchdowns last season.

Helu has "always tried to make people miss," said Beck, who worked at "trying to get him to play with lower pads and more physical. And he's been able to do that. So hopefully it will continue with him, continue to get better. The sky's the limit for him. He's got unlimited ability."

### NO PROBLEM

#### **JERMARCUS "YOSHI"**

**HARDICK**, the transfer from Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College, could be the offensive left tackle when the Huskers open the 2010 season against Western Kentucky. Though he was fundamentally "raw" in the spring, according to offensive line coach **BARNEY COTTON**, he didn't lack effort or heart. And he played despite a broken bone in a hand.



## JUST WIN BABY

Pierre Allen was credited with five sacks last season, the fourth-highest total on the team, behind Ndamukong Suh (12), Jared Crick (9.5) and Barry Turner (5.5). But Allen isn't interested in statistics. "It's all about the wins," he said. "I'm not big on numbers."

Even so, "there will be more than five (sacks); I can tell you that."

## REDSHIRT OR NOT

Among the major topics in the spring was **ADI KUNALIC**'s indicating that he would like to redshirt in 2010, so he would have one season to handle place-kicks after **ALEX HENERY** completes his eligibility.

Kunalic, a scholarship recruit, kicked a 46-yard field goal in the opening game against Nevada in 2007, his freshman year, before giving way to Henery, a walk-on who has since earned a scholarship.

Kunalic has kicked off, however, and ranked among the nation's leaders in each of his three seasons. He has 86 career touchbacks, underscoring his value, and complicating the redshirt issue.

"We want to do what's best for this football team in 2010, and so Adi's obviously a huge part of our special teams," said John Papuchis, who works with the kickers. "We don't want to take away from that area because we were good on that unit. But at the same time, if other guys are able to step up in that role and he looks comfortable in that place-kicking role, then it's a possibility."

The "other guys" who could handle kickoffs include Henery and four walk-ons: sophomore **BRETT MAHER**, Henery's holder last season and a back-up punter; junior **JON DAMKROGER**; redshirted freshman **TYLER DAAKE** and incoming freshman **JASON DANN**.

Papuchis said a decision would be made "probably sometime this summer."

**M o v i n g o n >**

**JACOB HICKMAN**, who started 37 games at guard and center for the Cornhuskers during his career, declined an invitation to the NFL Combine. Injuries were a factor in his decision. "It did kind of set up to where I got a good experience out of it, and I did not feel like I had anything else to prove to myself or anyone else," he told the

Omaha World-Herald. "I got that out of my system." Hickman also turned down an opportunity to play in the Texas vs. The Nation All-Star game in El Paso, Texas.

In addition to **NDAMUKONG SUH**, Nebraska was represented by **PHILLIP DILLARD** and **LARRY ASANTE** at the Combine.





N

## Roca



Seventh grade is a difficult time to leave friends. No doubt about that. But "it was kind of easier for me," **JUSTIN JACKSON** said of his family's move from Lincoln to Roca.

For one thing, elementary school in Lincoln included kindergarten through sixth grade, "so once you go to seventh grade, everyone kind of splits up anyway," he said.

For another, his family lived on an acreage in Lincoln and moved to an acreage near Roca.

Jackson appreciates wide-open spaces. "I love it, actually," the sophomore defensive tackle said. "I think just living out there changes you as a person. It's a way different thing, more independent, and the stuff you do, the stuff that interests you, changes and really makes you a whole different person."

"That was one of the biggest things about college for me, that everything you used to do when you lived out there... hunting, fishing, anything like that, living in Lincoln, you can't do anymore."

Well, you can, but not nearly as often because of the demands of school and football.

In fact, Jackson walked on at Nebraska rather than accept a scholarship offer from a smaller school, in part, because of the proximity to home. "I'm still only 30, 40 minutes from home, so the thought of really leaving it, that's where I first decided that no way (would he go elsewhere)," he said.

"Then if I was going to go play football somewhere, where would I rather do it? It was definitely here, you know. Never once was I confused about where I was going to go."

Instead of a Class A high school in Lincoln, probably Southwest, Jackson attended Class B Norris High, a consolidated school with students from nine communities in three counties.

"I have friends all over," said Jackson. "And that's the biggest thing. Someone lives in Firth, someone lives in Cortland, all your friends are so far away, in different towns."

### ROCA, NE

**County:** Lancaster

**Population:** 218

**Distance from Lincoln:** 10 miles

#### DID YOU KNOW?

► "Roca" is Spanish for rock. The village was named Roca because stone quarrying was the primary industry when Roca was incorporated in 1876. Stone from the quarries in the area was used in the construction of many buildings in Lincoln.

► The Roca Berry Farm boasts of having the oldest and largest pumpkin patch in the county, with over 100,000 pumpkins over 25 acres annually.

► Roca has a bar. "I've never been in that," said Jackson. "I mean, that's about it. It's small, real small. It could use a car wash or something. That's what I'm going to do some day."





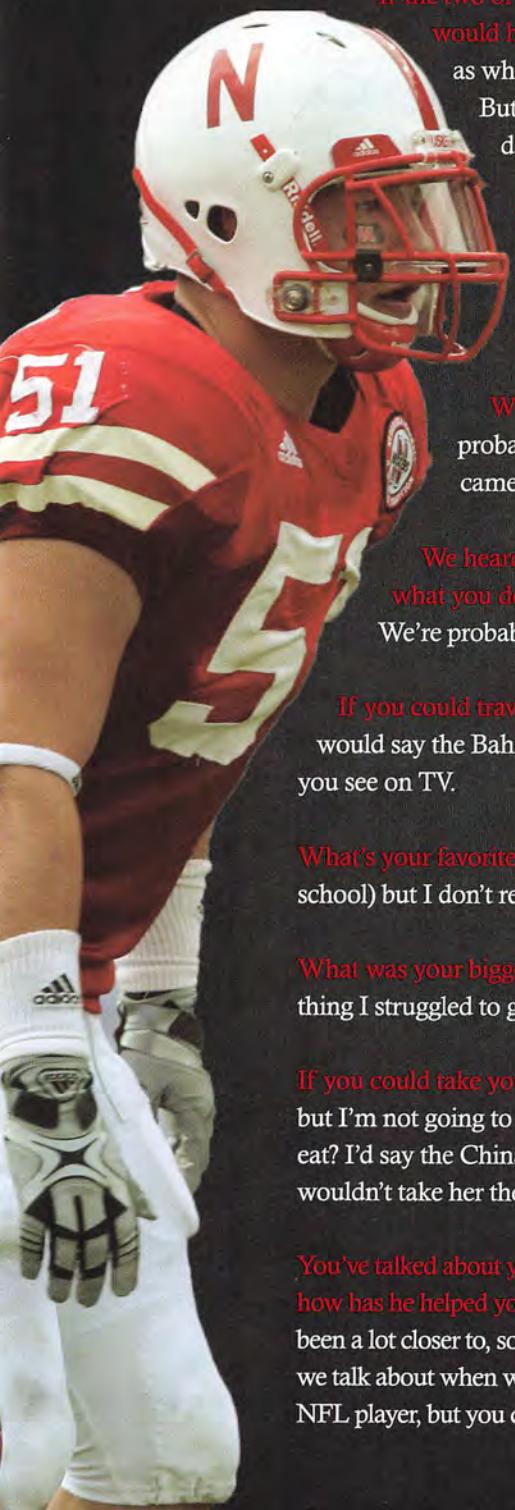
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# 10 QUESTIONS WITH WILL COMPTON

6-2, 225, SOPHOMORE, LINEBACKER, BONNE TERRE, MO.



Your brother, Cody, is a member of the Nebraska wrestling team. What's it like having a brother on campus who's a student-athlete? It's awesome. I wouldn't have it any other way. My brother and I are really close, as is our whole family. It's really cool to have him here.

If the two of you were to change roles for one week – he plays football, you wrestle – who would have the tougher transition, and why? He might have the tougher transition as far as what we do, like what you've got to know, and just fundamentals, things like that. But I would hate it more, because wrestling is a way different animal that I hated doing.

We've heard you call Eric Martin "Caveman" before. How did he get that nickname? I have no idea. All I know is I think that Coach (Mike) Ekeler said his coaches from high school called him "Caveman." So coach Ek calls him "Caveman," and then everybody just calls him "Caveman."

What's your favorite memory of playing with Ndamukong Suh? I don't know, probably just practicing. He's a real cool guy. He had fun at practice, and everybody came to work, but you could joke with him.

We heard a lot this spring about the new "peso" defense. In what ways does that affect what you do at linebacker, or does it? It doesn't really affect us that much as far as calls. We're probably more interchangeable as far as inside backers and outside backers.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why? I have no idea. I guess I would say the Bahamas or Australia, just because of the weather, things like that. Experience what you see on TV.

What's your favorite class? Right now, this semester? I don't really have one. I mean, I do well (in school) but I don't really like going to class. I do go to class, I do.

What was your biggest obstacle last year, starting as a redshirted freshman? I would say the biggest thing I struggled to get by was confidence.

If you could take your date for dinner anywhere in Lincoln, where would you take her? I have ideas, but I'm not going to reveal my secrets because they could be used against me. My favorite place to eat? I'd say the China Buffet. Chinese food is my favorite. China Buffet or Mongolian Grill. But I wouldn't take her there.

You've talked about you and Barrett Ruud having a pretty close relationship. What's that like now, and how has he helped you? He goes back to Florida more now because he's got a lady friend that I guess he's been a lot closer to, so he's back there now. We text now and then, not as much, but when he comes here we talk about when we can get together and watch film, stuff like that. He's awesome. I mean, he's an NFL player, but you couldn't tell talking to the guy.



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## STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

# A glimpse inside other Big 12 spring camps

**SPRING FOOTBALL** in the Big 12 is in the books, and yes, as far as Nebraska fans are concerned, to win the league you'll have to go through Texas.

It's why Bo Pelini still gets asked whether his players are using last year's last-second loss to the Longhorns in the league championship as fuel for summer and fall.

Pelini says that's up to each individual but notes: "Obviously, we were close."

"I think guys are just hungry, and people are anxious because they came here to win championships and it hasn't happened yet."

The 2010 season brings about the two-year flip in North-South inter-division match-ups, meaning Nebraska gets Texas (Oct. 16), Oklahoma State (Oct. 23), and Texas A&M (Nov. 20).

Here's a glimpse of those spring camps, as well as something from Colorado that might leave you chuckling.

► At Texas much was made about the Longhorns committing more to a quarterback-under-center, downhill running game – a big change from their zone-read-heavy run game of recent seasons.

However, Mack Brown played down that notion.

"We really aren't changing as much as people would think," he said. "We would just like to be more balanced with our running attack. We were running

this offense when we got here (in 1998). We went more to a zone-read option, drop-back offense with Vince Young and Cedric Benson (in 2004-05). Then with Colt McCoy, we got away from the zone read more and just went to the drop-back.

"We'll continue to throw all the passes that Colt threw. We'll continue to spread the offense. We'll continue to be in the shotgun. We will run some zone read. It will not be a feature. We want to be more physical (with our running game) and take some of the pressure off our quarterback that we put on Colt for the last four years."

FYI, Brown sounds confident the Longhorns will be in sure hands with McCoy's successor, sophomore Garrett Gilbert.

► Texas A&M figures to have a lethal offense with quarterback Jerrod Johnson among eight returning starters who helped the Aggies finish No. 5 nationally in total yards.

Mike Sherman raised eyebrows when he said the 6-foot-5, 243-pound Johnson has developed as well as any player he's ever coached. Remember, now, he once coached Brett Favre.

"His dad was a coach. He thinks like a coach. He develops talent in himself like a coach tries to develop talent," Sherman said. "From a leadership standpoint, he's really taken that to

another level...He's preparing like there's no tomorrow."

Johnson was limited by a shoulder injury in the spring but was expected to be 100-percent when summer conditioning started.

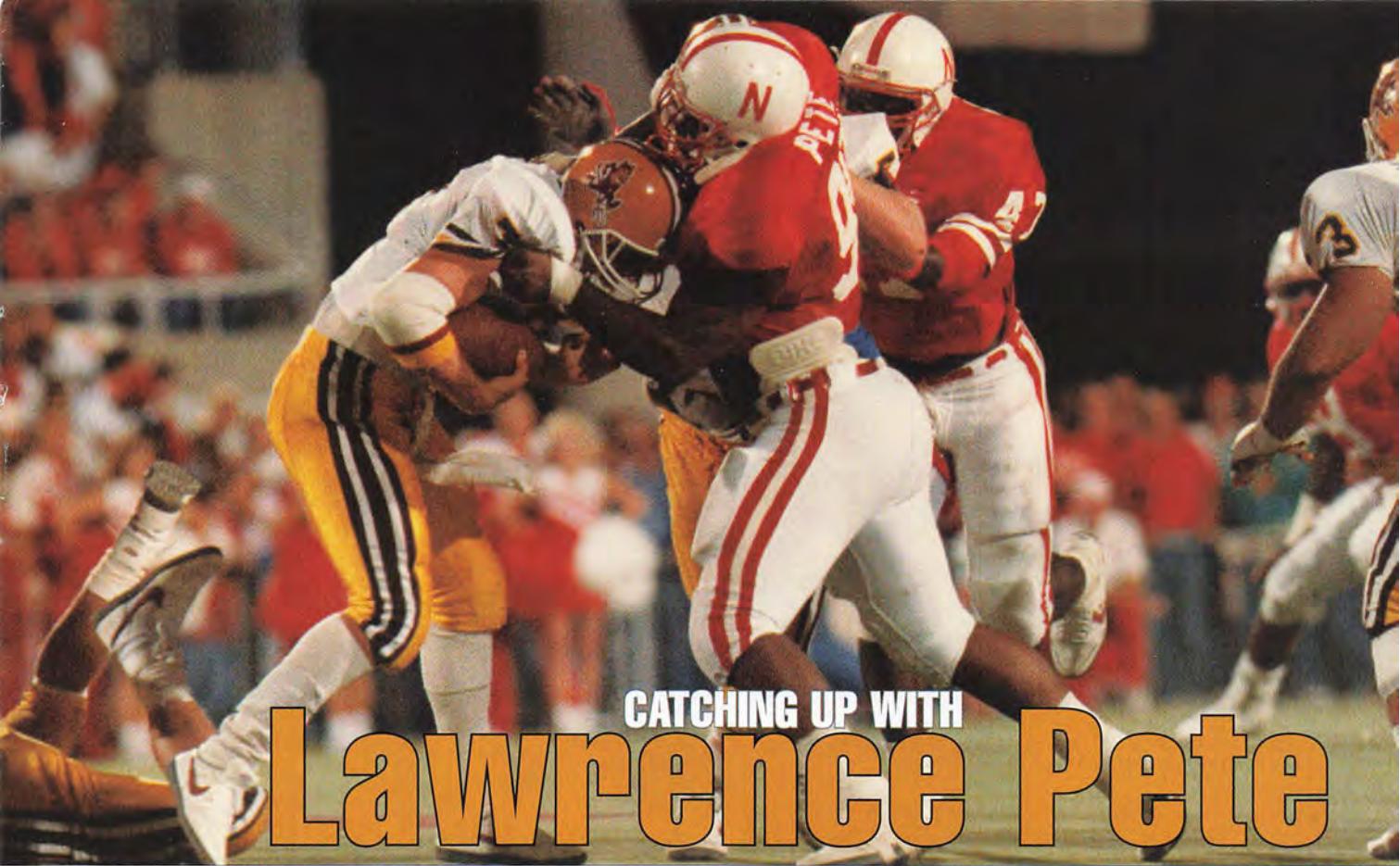
► At Oklahoma State, Mike Gundy is handing over play-calling to first-year offensive coordinator Dana Holgorsen.

"It's more than a tweak," Gundy said about the decision to go with Holgorsen, a Mike Leach protégé who spent last season at Houston. "I had done it for a few years, and really enjoyed it, but felt like the everyday responsibilities of being the head coach...is becoming too much of a time factor to dedicate six to eight hours of offense a day to call plays on Saturday."

At quarterback, the Cowboys go from Zac Robinson to Brandon Weeden, a 26-year-old former minor league baseball player who threw four touchdown passes in OSU's spring game.

► Finally, the word at Colorado about the quarterback situation is cause for wonder, as Tyler Hansen and Cody Hawkins are still dueling.

"I think the difference between those guys has been paper thin, whether you favor one guy or the other guy," Dan Hawkins said. Considering the Buffs were last in passing efficiency in Big 12 play last season, who says their fans favor either? ■



# CATCHING UP WITH Lawrence Pete

BY RANDY YORK

## FOOTBALL WAS HIS DRESS REHEARSAL FOR LIFE

**IT WAS 4:30** on the Saturday morning of Nebraska's Big 12 Championship date with Texas last December at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

Neil Smith had flown in the night before so he could join friend and former teammate Lawrence Pete, in Elkhorn, Neb. The two ex-NFL players were up, dressed and ready to drive to Lincoln to catch a Nebraska Alumni Association charter flight to Dallas.

They couldn't help looking at each other that morning and almost laughing.

"Are we crazy or what?" Smith asked. "We're absolutely nuts," Pete answered. "We've become what we always laughed about."

Here were two guys in their mid-40s, in the wee hours of the morning, eager to get to a Nebraska football game that night, so they could show the world how much they care.

"I can't tell you how many times

we'd come down to a hotel lobby and see Nebraska fans all decked out in red at 6 o'clock on a Saturday morning," Pete said. "We'd laugh and wonder how anybody could be that crazy, and now look at us. We're the biggest Husker fans in the world.

"In fact, as a fan, I care more about football now than I did when I was playing. Ask my mom. Basketball was always my favorite sport growing up. Football was just a byproduct of me being a weightlifter, so I could earn a scholarship."

For Pete, "Football was just a dress rehearsal for the game of life," he said.

Because of Tom Osborne's leadership and influence, "I've always viewed football as so much bigger than the pads, the tackles, the sacks, the records and even my time in the NFL," Pete said. "He was so much more than just a coach. He was the first man in my life who was a constant. He

was a role model who taught me, through constant positive reinforcement, how to set a goal, develop a game plan, commit to something bigger than myself and explain why sacrificing was part of winning."

Osborne "used football to equip me with the necessary tools and skill sets, so I could apply the same principles to life," Pete said. "I grew up (in Wichita) as one of seven boys in a single-parent house. I had 11 sisters, so there were 18 children in the same house. I never had a father until Tom Osborne came into my home and my life and taught me the important lessons I needed to learn."

"I know what those guys are getting now from Bo Pelini – the same values and principles I got. Neil and I talked on the way to Lincoln about how funny it was that we've both become such big fans. When we were playing, we could see and experience the depth of passion that Nebraska fans had for this program, but we couldn't really comprehend it."

"Now we do, and we're just as crazy – and just as passionate – as everyone else!" **N**

# TurningPoint





# THREE-HORSE RACE

Following Nebraska's Red-White game, the quarterback derby that will begin in fall camp now appears to be at least a three-horse race.

After hearing rave reviews, most Cornhusker fans got their first look at **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** (pictured left) in the spring contest. For the most part, they had to like what they saw as the redshirted freshman-to-be helped the Red squad to a 21-16 victory before a crowd of 77,936 at Memorial Stadium.

Martinez displayed impressive quickness, rushing nine times for 60 yards. Despite a pair of ill-advised throws – one resulting in a tipped interception – the 6-foot-1, 195-pounder from Corona, Calif., was 5-of-9 passing for 79 yards and two touchdowns.

Apparently, Martinez has impressed the coaching staff enough to put himself in position to compete for a starting job in August. Senior incumbent **ZAC LEE**, who missed spring practice after off-season surgery on his throwing arm, and **CODY GREEN** (above) are also in the mix.

And don't completely discount the injury-plagued **KODY SPANO**. Wearing a green jersey to protect him from contact, Spano was 7-of-8 passing for the Reds for 66 yards, including

throwing what proved to be a game-winning 1-yard TD pass to junior tight end **RYAN HILL** with 7:28 to play.

"Everyone is in the race for the starting job," Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** said. "There are no starting jobs locked down right now. Competition is on...(the spring game) is just a small part of the evaluation."

Pelini said Martinez, who is off-limits to media interviews because he has yet to play in a game at Nebraska, is obviously a good athlete who can run and throw.

"I think he is a pretty multi-talented kid, as is Cody," Pelini said. "I like the athleticism at the quarterback position. I think that they are going to bring a lot to the table as far as giving things for people to defend."

Green said he has made "tremendous" progress since his 2009 starts against Baylor and Oklahoma.

"It's still Zac's job to lose – we all know that," Green said. "Just because he hasn't been here, you've got to give him a chance to get in there and compete with us."

"This spring has really helped out everybody. You can see that we're all playing at a high level." **N**

– by Terry Douglass

# Spring Recap



SCOTT BRUHN

## GIFTS FROM SUH

**N**DAMUKONG SUH's collegiate eligibility has expired, but that doesn't mean the All-America defensive tackle won't be contributing to the future of Nebraska and its football program.

During a first-quarter break at the Red-White spring game, Suh announced via the HuskerVision video boards that he's donating \$2 million to Nebraska's strength program and an additional \$600,000 to the UNL College of Engineering to endow a scholarship. Projected as a top-five selection in the NFL draft, Suh graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management from the College of Engineering last December.

"I wouldn't be in the position I'm in right now if it wasn't for this university and this great coaching staff that I had," Suh told the Husker Sports Network in an interview shortly after his donations were announced. "As long as I work and take care of what I'm supposed to take care of, it won't be a problem for me to be able to do that."

"I wanted to give back to a program that has given me so much."

Nebraska coach **BO PELINI** said Suh's financial commitment – the largest ever by a former Husker player to the university – shows that Suh is "a special human being who has obviously meant a lot to this program and has accomplished a lot here."

### NO SATISFACTION

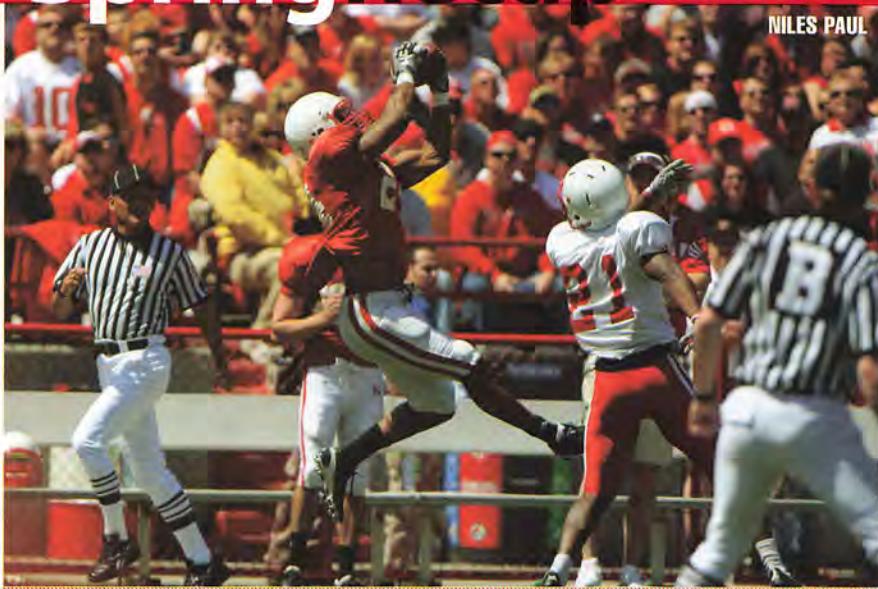
While saying several times that Nebraska has "a long way to go" before next season, **BO PELINI** appeared at least comfortable with what his team accomplished during its 3 1/2-week spring season.

"You're never satisfied," he said. "I thought there were a lot of things we need to get cleaned up – there was some disappointing things in there (and) there were some things I saw that were good, but that's to be expected."

"I'll look at the tape, evaluate it and then move on to that next phase. What I look at is the spring as a whole and I like the things that we were able to get done."

After the game-conditions scrimmage,

# Spring Recap



NILES PAUL

SCOTT BRUHN

**SKY'S THE LIMIT:** **NILES PAUL** appeared to pick up where he left off last season. The senior wide receiver had game-highs in receptions (five) and receiving yards (103) for the Whites, including a 48-yard reception from quarterback **CODY GREEN** late in the first quarter.

"It was pretty much just another practice for me," Paul said. "Just with a lot more fans."

After leading the Huskers with 40

receptions for 796 yards and four TDs as a junior, Paul said he's confident he can elevate his game in 2010.

"The sky's the limit for me," Paul said. Receivers coach **TED GILMORE** said Paul had a "great" spring.

"I'm really proud of him," Gilmore said. "He did things this spring that a couple of years ago I didn't think Niles could do. He has accepted the challenge to pay attention to the details."

Pelini said his biggest criticism was that the Huskers need to be more consistent with their execution.

"You can't be a some-of-the-time football player or a some-of-the-time football team," he said. "At times, that's what we were, even in practice. We strive for perfection around here, and until I start seeing us get closer to that, I'll say we've got a long way to go."

## BUMPS & BRUISES

Defensive tackle **JARED CRICK** said Nebraska's spring season was productive.

The junior-to-be especially liked the physical nature of the Huskers' 15 spring practices.

"We knew going in that it was going to be physical, and we kind of got the mindset that you had to gear up every day because it was going to be a war, and that's what it was," Crick said. "It's really nice to be able to look back and see the good things that you've done. You've got some bumps and bruises everywhere, but it was all for the better, and you really see the team become more physical."

## NOT TO BE DENIED

Possibly one of the spring game's best plays was turned in by **BRANDON KINNIE** on his 36-yard TD reception from **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** to give the Red team a 14-3 lead with 9:52 left in the first half.

After making the catch and appearing to be stopped at about the 10-yard line, Kinnie kept pumping his legs and – with the assist of some downfield blocking by his teammates – carried the pile into the end zone

"I just caught the ball and then I kept going," Kinnie said. "I kept feeling the push and then I could hear (the crowd) getting louder and I just kept going."

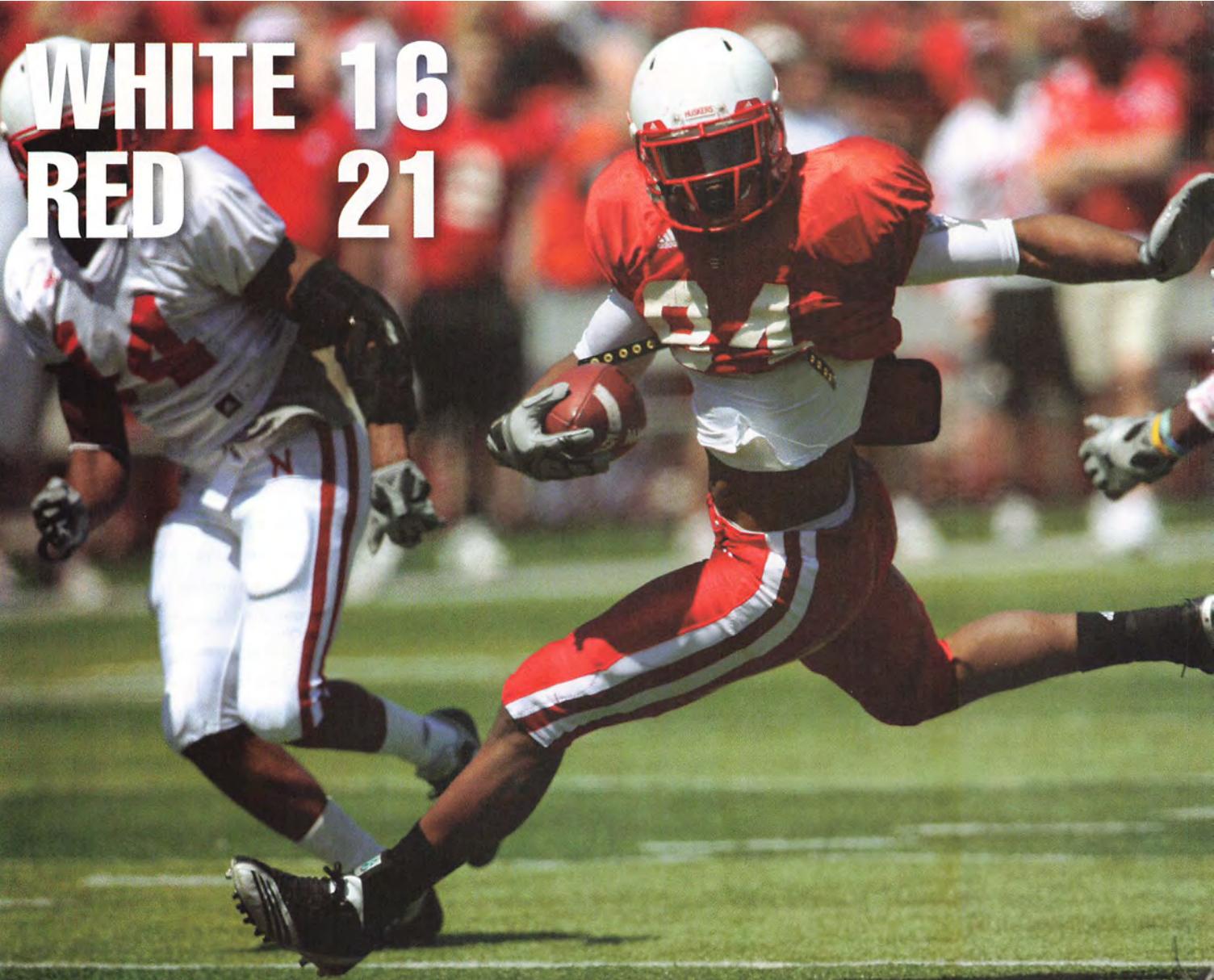
## THENARSE'S RETURN

The Red-White game's defensive highlight – from a sentimental perspective, at least – came when **RICKY THENARSE** recorded a first-quarter interception of **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** on a ball tipped by cornerback **ALFONZO DENNARD**.

Thenarse, a fifth-year senior safety, is attempting to work his way back from a knee injury that ended his 2009 season in game four.

"It kind of gave me some confidence," said Thenarse, whose seven tackles ranked only behind linebacker **ALONZO WHALEY** for the White squad. "I hadn't made a play and I hadn't been out there for a long time, so this was the kind of game where you regain that confidence."

# WHITE 16 RED 21



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:**

1) Junior wide receiver

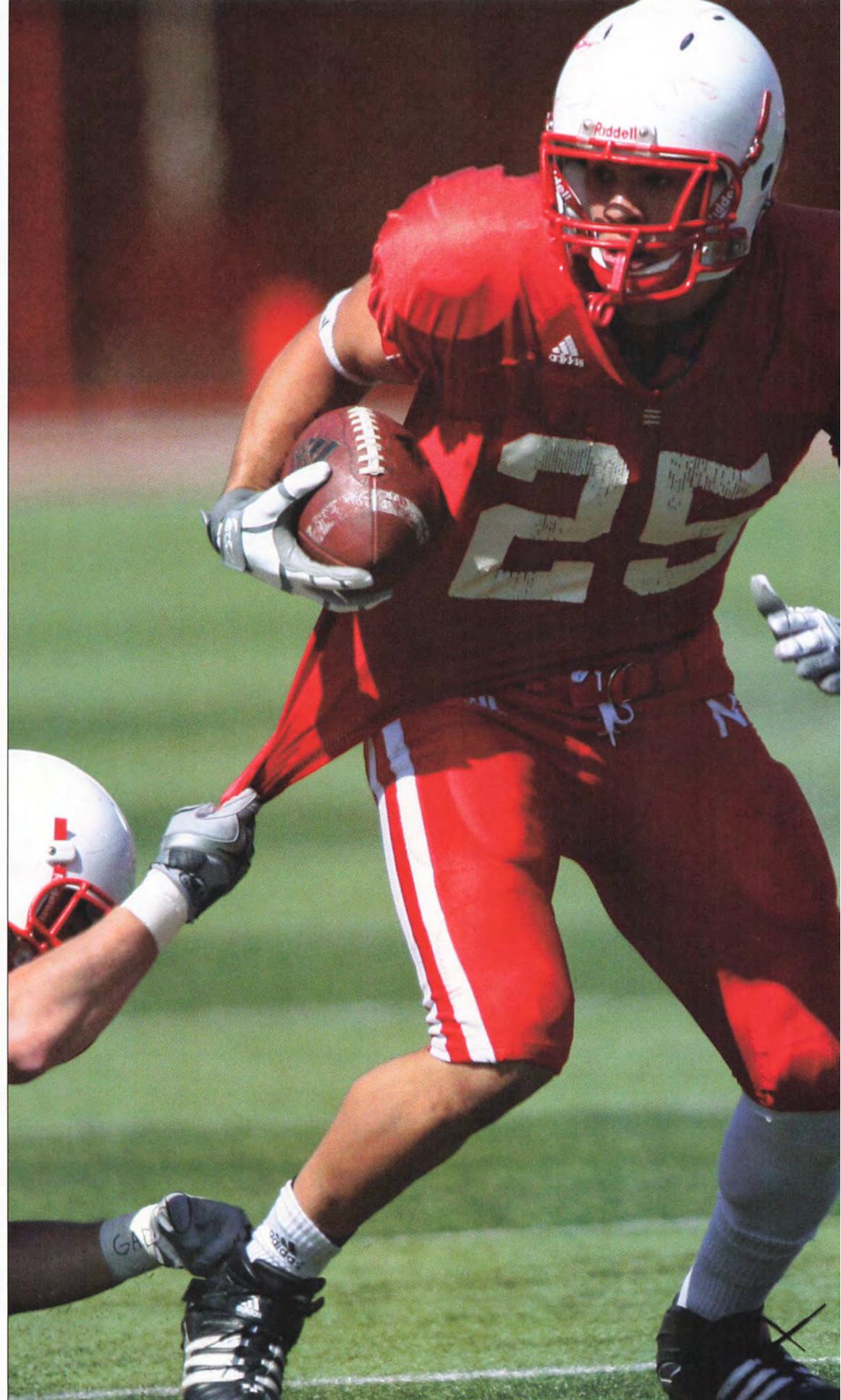
Brandon Kinnie had one catch for 36 yards and scored a touchdown after dragging defenders into the endzone.

2) Sophomore tight end Kyler Reed breaks the grasp of a tackler after making a catch.

3) Junior I-back Austin Jones rushed for 27 yards on 13 carries

4) Senior wide receiver Will Henry heads to paydirt with a 72-yard reception from quarterback Cod Green..







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NILES PAUL LEADS THE HUSKERS ON THE FIELD FOR THE RED-WHITE SPRING GAME.  
PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

Red or White, you can Count on Blue.

# IN THE Red Zone



JEFF ZELEVANSKY/GETTY IMAGES

## DRAFT DAY DARLING

Undoubtedly, the Detroit Lions' fan base increased on the first night of the NFL draft when the Lions selected Ndamukong Suh with the second pick.

"I know the great Detroit fans are looking forward to me, and I'm looking forward to them," Suh told ESPN's Suzy Kolber after being congratulated by Commissioner Roger Goddell.

Suh is the first Cornhusker to be as high as the second pick in the draft since Neil Smith was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs with the second pick in 1988.

"He is very deserving of the high selection in the draft, and the Lions are fortunate to have the opportunity to add him to their organization," Cornhusker coach Bo Pelini said in a

statement released by the Nebraska sports information office. "Everyone has seen his ability on the field, but as I've said many times, Suh's maturity and character are just as important to making him a success."

"I think Detroit and the other teams he talked to recognized that as well."

Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford was the first player selected, by the St. Louis Rams. But ESPN draft analyst Mel Kiper, Jr. listed Suh as the best player available beforehand.

Kolber asked Suh how it felt to realize an NFL dream.

"It feels good. It has those tingles that come down your body," Suh said. "It's amazing."

# NDAMUKONG TO BE A RICH MAN SOON

Even though he was not the first player selected in the NFL draft, **NDAMUKONG SUH** figures to command big bucks. The last defensive lineman to be the first pick was **MARIO WILLIAMS**, an end, in 2006. The Houston Texans gave him a six-year, \$54 million contract, with \$26.5 million guaranteed.

YR	PLAYER	TEAM	CONTRACT	GUARANTEED
2009	Matthew Stafford, Georgia, QB	Detroit	6 years/\$72 million	\$41.7 million
2008	Jake Long, Michigan, OT	Miami	5 years/\$57.7 million	\$30 million
2007	JaMarcus Russell, LSU, QB	Oakland	6 years/\$61 million	\$29.2 million
2006	Mario Williams, NC State, DE	Houston	6 years/\$54 million	\$26.5 million
2005	Alex Smith, Utah, QB	San Francisco	6 years/\$57 million	\$24 million
2004	Eli Manning, Ole Miss, QB	#San Diego	6 years/\$54 million	\$20 million*
2003	Carson Palmer, USC, QB	Cincinnati	7 years/\$49 million	\$14 million*
2002	David Carr, Fresno State, QB	Houston	7 years/\$46.2 million	\$14 million*
2001	Michael Vick, Virginia Tech, QB	Atlanta	6 years/\$62 million	\$15.3 million
2000	Courtney Brown, Miami, DE	Cleveland	6 years/\$45 million	BV\$10.9 million

#traded to New York Giants

\*signing bonus Source: NFL.com

## LATE-ROUND PICK

The NFL Draft was dramatically different when **TOM OSBORNE** finished his playing career at Hastings College in 1958. The league had only 12 teams, divided in two divisions, and the 1959 draft included 30 rounds, the first four of which conducted in early December of 1958.

The draft's final 26 rounds weren't held until late January of 1959. Osborne, a quarterback, was selected in the 19th round by the San Francisco 49ers. He was pick No. 222.

Osborne, who briefly considered seminary, spent that 1959 season on the 49ers' taxi squad, then played two seasons with the hapless Washington Redskins – as a receiver.

The Redskins won only two games in those two seasons. "We were so desperate, things got so tough, we went to what's known as an incentive pay system," Osborne has said.

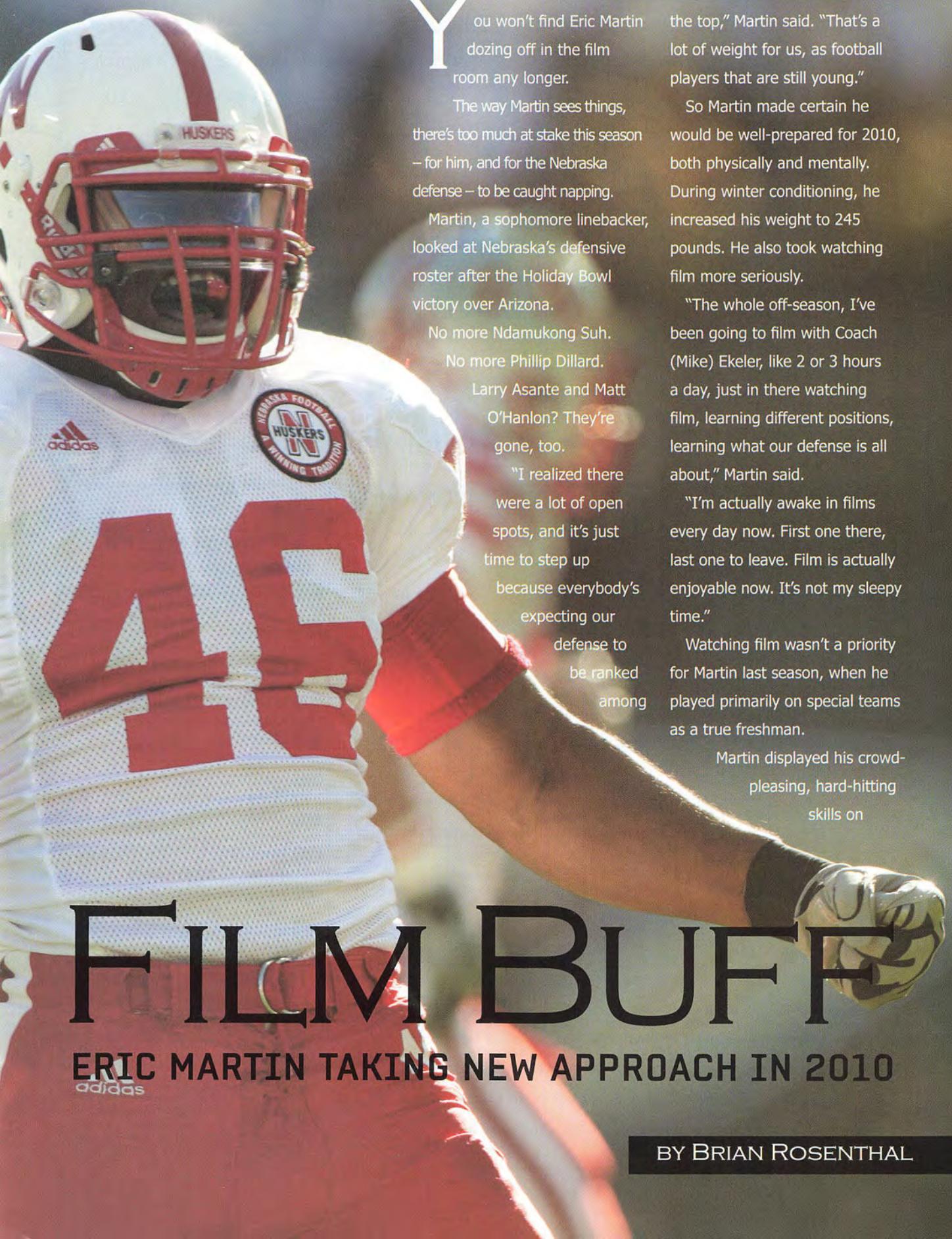
"If you made a touchdown, you got \$100, caught a pass, you got \$50, if you made a great block or a great tackle, you got \$15. And, of course, there were fines and deductions if you fumbled, missed an assignment, did something wrong. To give you an idea of the kind of player I was, at the end of the first year, they called me in and added everything up and said I owed the team \$34.50

"They said I was the highest paid player on the team that year."

## 2010 NFL DRAFT

### FIRST ROUND SELECTIONS (FIRST 15)

1	<b>RAMS</b> Bradford, Sam, QB, Oklahoma
2	<b>LIONS</b> <b>Suh, Ndamukong, DT, Nebraska</b>
3	<b>BUCCANEERS</b> McCoy, Gerald, DT, Oklahoma
4	<b>REDSKINS</b> Williams, Trent, OT, Oklahoma
5	<b>CHIEFS</b> Berry, Eric, SS, Tennessee
6	<b>SEAHAWKS</b> Okung, Russell, OT, Oklahoma State
7	<b>BROWNS</b> Haden, Joe, CB, Florida
8	<b>RAIDERS</b> McClain, Rolando, LB, Alabama
9	<b>BILLS</b> Spiller, C.J., RB, Clemson
10	<b>JAGUARS</b> Alualu, Tyson, DE, California
11	<b>49ERS</b> (From Bears via Broncos) Davis, Anthony, OT, Rutgers
12	<b>CHARGERS</b> (From Dolphins) Mathews, Ryan, RB, Fresno State
13	<b>EAGLES</b> (From 49ers via Broncos) Graham, Brandon, DE, Michigan
14	<b>SEAHAWKS</b> (From Broncos) Thomas, Earl, SS, Texas
15	<b>GIANTS</b> Pierre-Paul, Jason, DE, South Florida



# FILM BUFF

ERIC MARTIN TAKING NEW APPROACH IN 2010

**Y**ou won't find Eric Martin dozing off in the film room any longer.

The way Martin sees things, there's too much at stake this season – for him, and for the Nebraska defense – to be caught napping.

Martin, a sophomore linebacker, looked at Nebraska's defensive roster after the Holiday Bowl victory over Arizona.

No more Ndamukong Suh.

No more Phillip Dillard.

Larry Asante and Matt O'Hanlon? They're gone, too.

"I realized there were a lot of open spots, and it's just time to step up because everybody's expecting our defense to be ranked among

the top," Martin said. "That's a lot of weight for us, as football players that are still young."

So Martin made certain he would be well-prepared for 2010, both physically and mentally. During winter conditioning, he increased his weight to 245 pounds. He also took watching film more seriously.

"The whole off-season, I've been going to film with Coach (Mike) Ekeler, like 2 or 3 hours a day, just in there watching film, learning different positions, learning what our defense is all about," Martin said.

"I'm actually awake in films every day now. First one there, last one to leave. Film is actually enjoyable now. It's not my sleepy time."

Watching film wasn't a priority for Martin last season, when he played primarily on special teams as a true freshman.

Martin displayed his crowd-pleasing, hard-hitting skills on

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

**“I realized there were a lot of open spots, and it’s just time to step up because everybody’s expecting our defense to be ranked among the top”**

Eric Martin

kickoffs and punts, and he collected 15 tackles. He also blocked two punts – the first Husker to have two blocked punts in a season since Lannie Hopkins in 2002.

“I just want my role to be part of the team, just do whatever I can to help the team,” Martin said. “I want us all to come together and be the best defense we possibly can be. Like last year, how we all came together and ranked among the top in the nation. I just want to be like that again with our whole ‘D.’”

With Dillard gone, Martin knows there’s an opportunity for him to see significant action on defense. In Nebraska’s new base “peso” defense, he and Will Compton are interchangeable at the MIKE and WILL positions, the only two full-time linebacker spots in the formation.

Martin said he’s comfortable playing both roles.

“He’s got a great motor on him, and he’s really trying to learn the system and things like that,” said Compton, a redshirted sophomore who started eight games last season. “He’s just got to be out there and experience it more. We tried telling him it’s a lot different than kickoff, because he’s a machine out there on special teams. He needs to get the mental aspect down, but he’s coming along.

“Eric needs me, just like I need his aggression and him talking out there. I need that. As far as the mental aspect, the way we work together, we’ll get that chemistry down. He’s learning right now, so we have to communicate. We have to do that.”

Compton appreciates Martin’s

outspoken personality, saying his positive energy feeds off on the rest of the Blackshirts.

But Martin doesn’t save his aggression for game days.

“Practice is actually fun to me,” he said. “I don’t know what everybody else’s opinion is, but I actually enjoy practice. I just enjoy being out there, just hanging around the team and stuff. Unloading everything you’ve got on somebody else you’re going to hang out with in the next few minutes after practice ... it’s fun to me. I enjoy practice a lot.”

And now, the same goes for watching film.

“I’ve got something to pay attention to now,” Martin said, “because when I mess up in practice, Coach is the first to bring it up.”



# Recruiting Notebook

## Spring Game makes impact on prospects

BY SEAN STEVENS

The passion of Nebraska's fan base is unquestioned, and that passion has made the Red-White spring game a big draw for recruits. With nearly 78,000 fans in attendance, Nebraska had an opportunity to impress the bevy of prospects who joined the fans at Memorial Stadium.

Defensive tackle **QUINCY RUSSELL** (6-3, 280) of San Antonio, Texas, made an oral commitment to Texas in early April, only to recant his decision the following day. Russell was in attendance at the Red-White game to get a first-hand look at Husker Nation in action.

"I've already been to Texas, Baylor and Texas A&M, and now I have something else to compare those (experiences) to," Russell said. "I can tell you that Nebraska was the first time that I've ever seen fans like that come in for a spring game. It seemed kind of crazy at first, but then it seemed kind of cool."

"The whole fan atmosphere is what stood out the most about Nebraska. It's a pretty special deal."

Defensive lineman **JALEN GRIMBLE** (6-4, 255) of Las Vegas, Nev., was another highly-ranked prospect to visit Lincoln. Entering the weekend, Grimble held 20-plus offers and was "wide open" regarding his decision. The support of the NU fan base



QUINCY RUSSELL

impressed him.

"When you have 77,000 fans come to your spring game, that's one thing, but to have the kind of atmosphere around the football program that you do before the season even starts, that's just incredible," said Grimble. "It just goes through my mind: What's this place going to be like once the season starts and Texas is coming to town?"

Initially planning an announcement on his birthday in early August, Grimble has adjusted his plans slightly after the weekend.

"Nebraska has definitely moved up after this trip," Grimble said. "They've jumped right into my top four along with USC, UCLA and LSU. I'm just taking this thing day by day, but at this point I'm looking to commit within the next two weeks. I know I had talked

about announcing a decision on my birthday, but I figure if I already kind of have a basic theory on where I'm going, what's the point in waiting?"

The Huskers appear to be in great position with Grimble.

"Every school has something special," Grimble said. "However, for Nebraska, they just don't have one thing special and they don't have two things special; they have a million things special. That just blows me away."

Also in town was defensive back **ALEX DIXON** (6-1, 185) of Clearwater, Fla. Dixon's teammate, offensive lineman **TYLER MOORE** (6-6, 290), is a Husker commit and has been telling Dixon about the NU program.

"The main thing he always tells me is the defense is the No. 1 in the country

and coach Pelini is a good defensive coach," Dixon said.

Dixon arrived in Lincoln without a Husker offer, but when he gets home, it should already be in his mailbox.

"Actually, Coach Pelini said that they offered me, and my offer letter is in the mail now," Dixon said.

## GREEN VISITS YET AGAIN

Running back **AARON GREEN** (5-11, 185) of San Antonio, Texas, is among the most highly-publicized recruits in the nation. The 2010 game was Green's second time seeing Nebraska's spring scrimmage along with many other trips to see his older brother Andrew who is a redshirted freshman cornerback.

"They were just excited and all that," Green said of the coaching staff. "They've been pretty cool about it, you know; they didn't pressure me at all."

Despite some salesmanship from NU quarterback commit **JAMAL TURNER**, and acknowledging that the Huskers sit "pretty high" with him, Green said that he's in no hurry to announce a decision.

"Probably on national signing day," Green said. "I've always planned on just waiting until signing day."

## DALLAS ATHLETE SURPRISED BY VISIT

An intriguing athlete who could play a variety of positions on either side of the ball is **DESMOND ROLAND** (6-2, 200) of Dallas, Texas. It appears that the Huskers are looking at him on offense.

"I mostly talked to Coach (**TED GILMORE**), and he said that he liked me a lot and thought I could be a real physical receiver for them if I went to Nebraska. I also talked to **JAMAL TURNER**, who's a quarterback commit for them," said Roland. "I had heard about Jamal, but I didn't know him before yesterday."

Roland came to town expecting farm land, but he was pleasantly surprised by the NU campus.

"It was a real nice trip," Roland said. "It was way better than I was expecting. I thought I'd see just land. That's what I heard it would be and was expecting. Instead, it was a nice campus. The facilities were amazing. They were all big and nice. It was just amazing. My dad was in the same boat as me – he thought it was much better than he expected."



## IN STATE SPOTLIGHT

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

Omaha Central wide receiver prospect **TED LAMPKIN, JR.**

is one of the most explosive high school athletes in the state of Nebraska. The 5-foot-7, 165-pound Lampkin ran a 4.37-second 40-yard dash at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Junior Combine and he currently holds offers from Iowa State and Kansas State. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Lampkin in this week's in-state recruiting spotlight.

**CALLAHAN:** Talk about your recruiting process and how fast things have picked up for you?

**LAMPKIN:** It picked up really fast after the combine. There were a lot more schools that I hadn't heard from that started sending me letters and e-mails. People just started taking notice of me.

**CALLAHAN:** How familiar are you with the tradition and history of Central's football program?

**LAMPKIN:** I'm very familiar. I've got a couple of cousins that played for Central, so when I was younger I would always go to the games. I always told myself I wanted to go there, and once I did, it all started to pick up for me.

**CALLAHAN:** What athletes did you grow admiring?

**LAMPKIN:** I was a big Michael Jordan fan and a Jerry Rice fan. I also grew up a Maurice Greene fan, too.

**CALLAHAN:** So are you one of those guys that have all the Jordan shoes?

**LAMPKIN:** I'm a big Jordan-shoe collector. I think I have about 10 pairs right now. A usual pair of them costs about \$140.

**CALLAHAN:** What's your all-time favorite movie?

**LAMPKIN:** My favorite movie is "Coming to America" starring Eddie Murphy. I think it's one of the funniest movies I've ever seen.

**CALLAHAN:** Name for me a song that makes you sing out loud every time you hear it?

**LAMPKIN:** "On to the Next One" by Jay-Z.

**CALLAHAN:** What's your favorite restaurant?

**LAMPKIN:** Texas Roadhouse is my favorite place to eat. I usually get their burger. They have a good burger there and then you get the bread and the peanuts and you can just throw the peanuts on the floor.

# Recruiting Notebook

## Huskers pick up D-tackle T commit

by Mike Matya

Ever since Nebraska was the first school to send **KEVIN WILLIAMS** a written scholarship offer he became enamored with the Cornhuskers' football program.

As multiple new offers arrived in subsequent months, the positive feelings about Nebraska never waned for the Holland, Ohio, Springfield defensive tackle recruit.

After attending the Red-White spring game with his family, the 6-foot-2, 275-pounder decided that he had found his collegiate home, and he committed.

It was NU's sixth oral commitment for the class of 2011, and in the end it was the hospitality that he was shown by the coaches, players, fellow recruits, and fans that was the major factor in his choice.

"My visit this weekend was amazing. It just made me feel at home. The people and how I was treated was the main thing. I got a lot of attention from the fans. I was signing autographs and everything," said Williams. "And then the environment at the game was amazing. It was only a spring game, but



KEVIN WILLIAMS

it felt like it was a regular game."

Williams said he discussed his decision with his family, as well as with Springfield head coach **VINCE MARROW**, and they all supported his choice.

"Yes, my family loved it too," he said. "They were a big reason for my decision. Coach Marrow grew up with coach **(BO) PELINI**. He knows him personally, and he knows it will be a good fit for me."

It also didn't hurt Nebraska's chances that defensive linemen have thrived under the tutelage of the Pelini brothers, including most recently **NDAMUKONG SUH**.

"That had a great impact on my decision. The Pelinis really developed him, and I know that they'll bring the best out of me," Williams said.

Williams also got a chance to bond with the other early commits of NU's class of 2011 while in Lincoln, especially quarterback commit **JAMAL TURNER**.

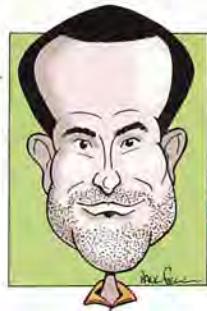
"Jamal was telling me why he committed to Nebraska and that it's a good place with a lot of good things happening there now," said Williams. "He said that once we commit, a lot of other good players will follow suit."

As a junior, Williams recorded 157 total tackles, 15 tackles-for-loss and 15 sacks. He was named first-team all-league, first-team all-district and special mention All-Ohio.

He chose Nebraska over offers from Boston College, Cincinnati, Illinois, Michigan, Michigan State, Kansas, Oregon, Stanford, Syracuse, Wisconsin and several others. **N**

### 2011 Nebraska Commitment List (6)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (School)
Dylan Admire	OL	6-2	264	Overland Park, Kan. (Blue Valley West)
Ryan Klachko	OL	6-4	280	Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
Tyler Moore	OL	6-6	290	Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
Ryne Reeves	OL	6-3	286	Crete, Neb. (Crete)
Jamal Turner	QB	6-1	173	Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
Kevin Williams	DT	6-2	275	Holland, Ohio (Springfield)



## DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN  
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,  
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

# Surprise, surprise

**ON ONE HAND,** there is the sarcastic surprise. It's really no surprise that we're about to enter the month of May, not even the halfway point of the recruiting cycle for 2011, and Texas again leads the Big 12 in early commits.

It has 19 total pledges. No, that's not a typo, 19.

But hey, Texas does this every year.

On the other hand, the real surprise may be the rest of the Big 12 – specifically Nebraska.

That Nebraska is doing well early is not a surprise per se. Whether you point at last season's finish, the defensive performance in 2009, pre-season rankings that have the Huskers in the top 10, or the promise of a long-term future under Bo Pelini, it's gotten easier to recruit top players to Lincoln in the last six months.

What is somewhat different is the quantity plus quality of recruits Nebraska has landed early. The Huskers just received their sixth commitment from Ohio defensive tackle Kevin Williams, who has a long list of scholarship offers. Williams was one of six prospects with Husker offers in town for the spring game.

Six commits in April. Not to mention, the spring evaluation period is underway, which means new offers and usually some movement with certain targets.

Oh, and we should mention Nebraska's camps will start in June.

Six isn't a good comparison to the 19 Texas has. But, let's be honest, Texas has been doing this the last several years – in reality, for the better part of Mack Brown's career in Austin. What is interesting is to look at is the pros and cons of doing such early recruiting.

If you're Nebraska, having six commits heading into May could be looked at as a touch different but certainly not a 180-degree change from previous years. Getting a top Texas dual-threat quarterback in Jamal Turner, a quality list of offensive linemen and a highly-touted defensive tackle this early is what sticks out.

In Texas, Brown has established a system with a few junior days in February, which usually lead to commitments that make up the better part of the signing class.

Finishing early lets you start early on the next class. So it's a good system in that regard, especially when you're talking about the overall demand with which Texas has to deal in terms of whom it offers.

So what are the cons of being finished with your recruiting class a year before signing day? For one, it's filling up and not having room or not evaluating other top Texans who go elsewhere.

Let's talk about this year's NFL Draft for a measuring stick.

Look at some of the Texans projected to go in the first two rounds. Don't focus on the total that played high school football in the Lone Star State, but the ones that didn't play for Texas, much less have an offer from the Longhorns.

Who are some of those? Oklahoma State wide receiver Dez Bryant. Oklahoma State offensive lineman Russell Okung. Missouri's Sean Witherspoon. TCU's defensive duo in Jerry Hughes and linebacker Daryl Washington. Oklahoma's star lineman Trent Williams.

For whatever reasons, and I'm sure there are plenty, none of these Texas prep stars received offers from the Horns. You'll still recognize Colt McCoy, Sergio Kindle, and Earl Thomas as representing UT in the draft.

However, there is something to be said that early recruiting – with Texas it's commonly referred to as choosing not recruiting – doesn't always equal a perfect class and a long list of future stars.

So while it's a good sign Nebraska's class has more commits to date than this time last year, getting a large quantity orally committed early doesn't always equal success across the board down the road. **N**



# Baseball ROADTRIP

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AARON BABCOCK

*"It's a glamor life," Royals Hall of Fame radio announcer Denny Matthews use to tell me, in reference to traveling with a baseball team.*

*Of course he usually said this in jest while sitting on a bus at 2 in the morning or sitting through a rain delay in Detroit at 10 p.m. And while Major League teams enjoy chartered jets and fancy clubhouses, college baseball enjoy no such luxuries.*

*Many fans dream of the enviable life of a baseball player. And while it's not digging ditches,*

*traveling as a player or coach means hours on buses, days in hotel rooms, hours of batting practice, shagging a million fly balls, all away from the comforts of home.*

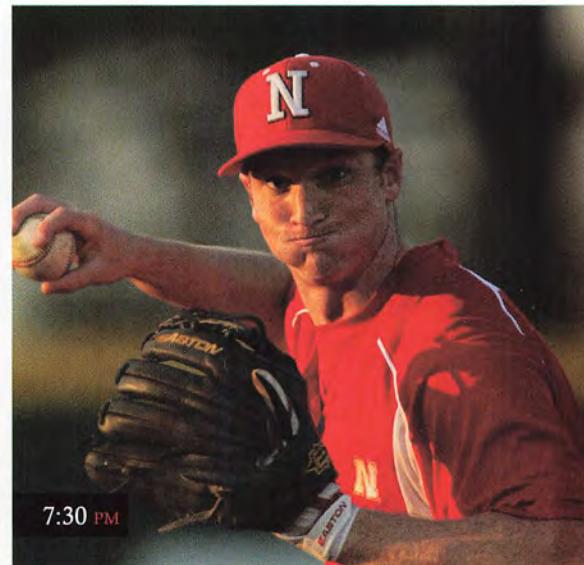
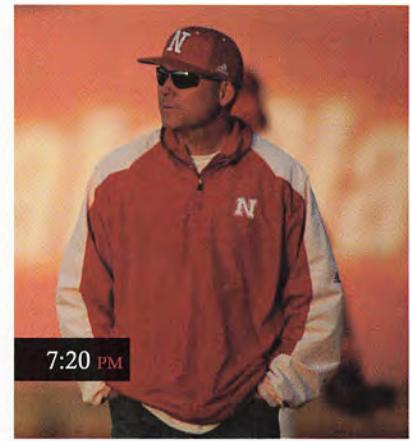
*So in this issue of Huskers Illustrated, we give you an all-access pass to life on the road with the Husker baseball team, for one weekend. Head Coach Mike Anderson was kind enough to grant us unlimited access, so we joined the Huskers for a weekend series against the Kansas State Wildcats.*

3:40 PM - Head Coach Mike Anderson (left) and Director of Baseball Operations Curtis Ledbetter settle into their seats at the front of the bus as the Husker ride from Lincoln to Manhattan, Kan

4:11 PM - Husker baseball players enjoy the movie "Sherlock Holmes" on the team bus during the ride to Kansas State.

7:20 PM - Assistant Coach Eric Newman watches practice.

# DAY 1



7:30 PM - Freshman infielder Kurt Farmer practices turning a double play during infield drills.

8:05 PM - Head Coach Mike Anderson pulls his outfielders aside to discuss techniques for fielding fly balls while battling the evening sky.

8:17 PM - Head Coach Mike Anderson addresses the Huskers after concluding Thursday evening practice.

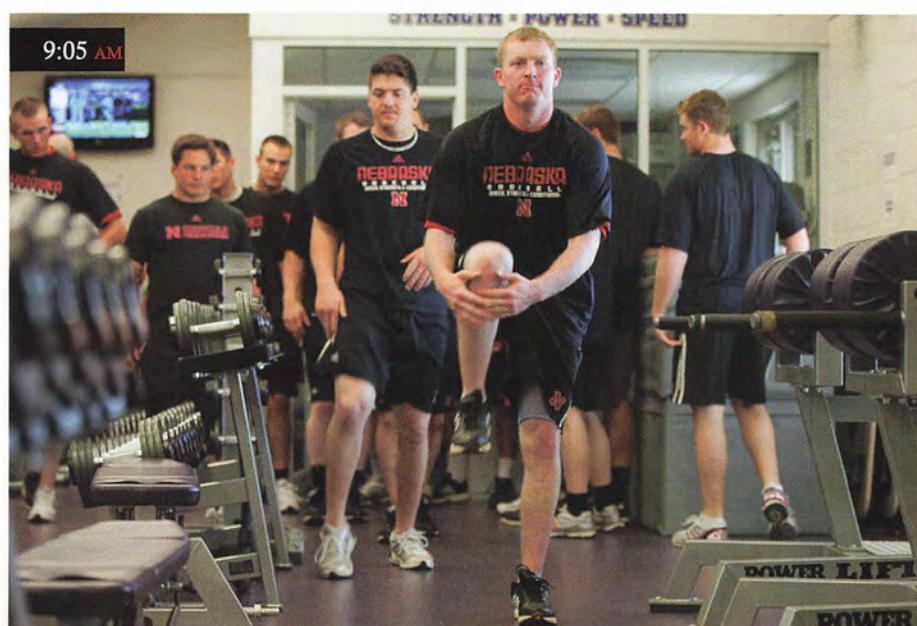


# DAY 2

9:05 AM - The Husker baseball team begins the day by lifting weights and working out at the baseball stadium.

4:37 PM - Nebraska's official starting lineup is posted in the Husker dugout, along with detailed statistics and scouting reports.

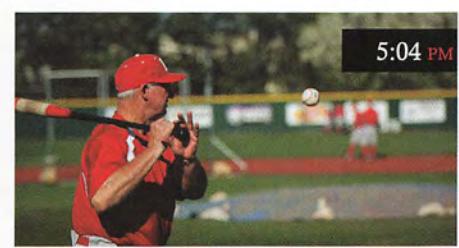
5:45 PM - Seniors Tyler Faust (left) and Adam Bailey wait for Kansas State to finish infield practice.



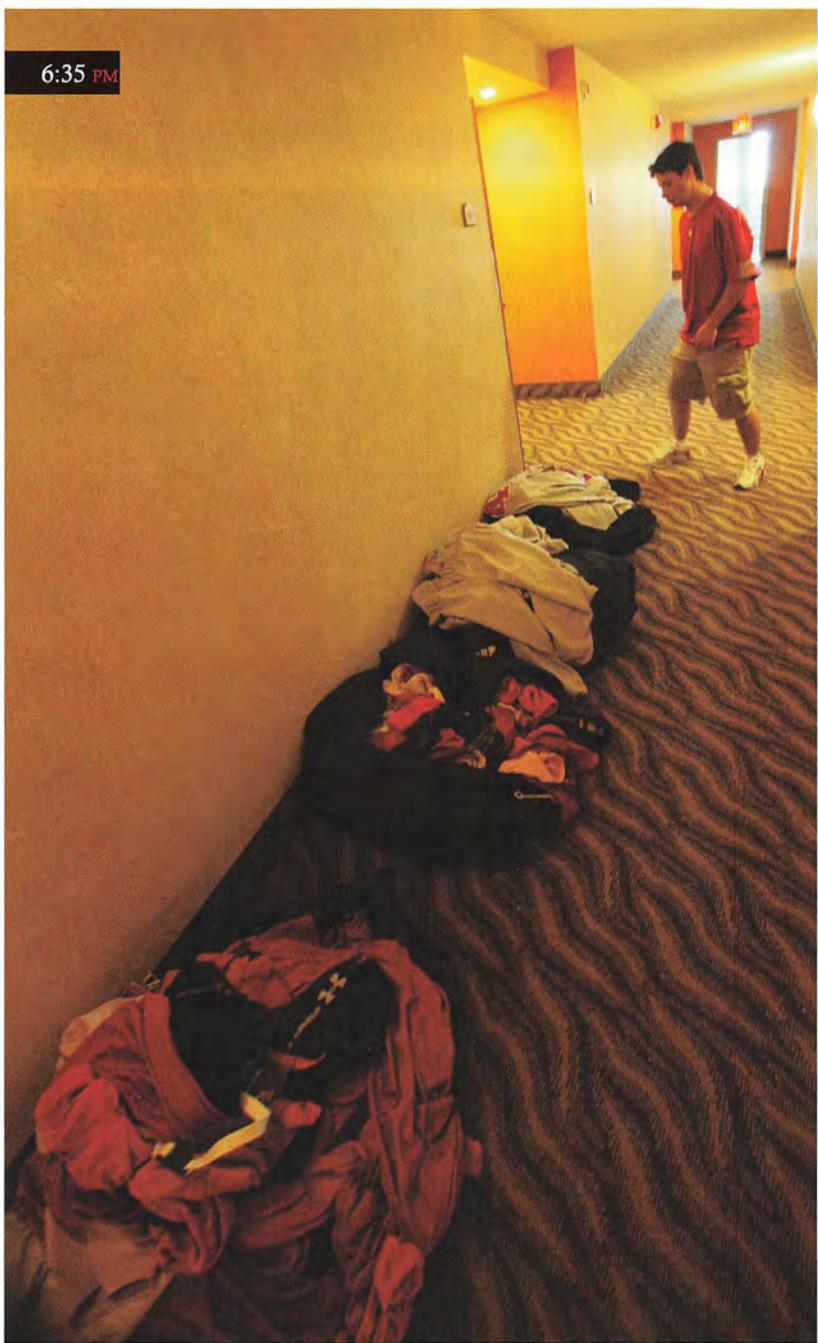
9:05 AM



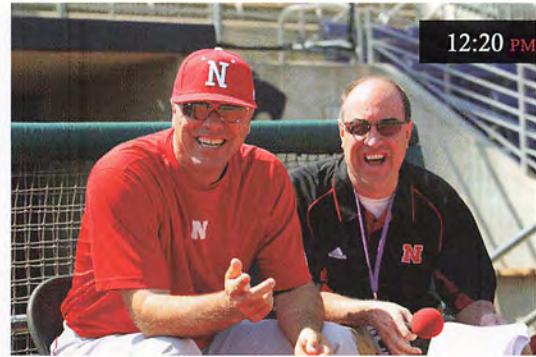
4:37 PM



5:04 PM - Assistant Coach Dave Bingham hits ground balls during pre-game drills.



# DAY 3



12:20 PM - Head Coach Mike Anderson and Husker play-by-play announcer Greg Sharpe share a laugh after Sharpe has a little fun at Anderson's expense.

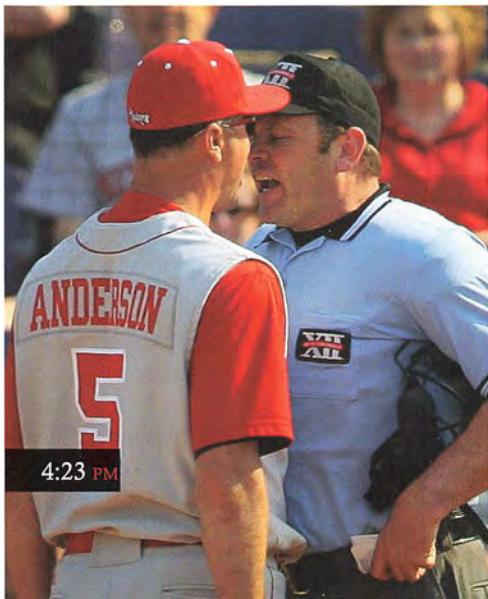
1:58 PM - Nebraska lines up along the first base line for the playing of the national anthem.

4:23 PM - Assistant equipment manager

Brian Gehringer prepares uniforms for laundering.

4:42 PM - Husker players video tape and scout Kansas State pitchers with a radar gun throughout the game.

4:23 PM - Head Coach Mike Anderson argues with home plate umpire Mark Winters after he was ejected for arguing.



# DAY 4



8:14 AM - Members of the Nebraska baseball support staff get up early to sort through uniforms that were laundered at Kansas State the night before. Once every player's uniform is sorted, players will stop by the room to pick up their gear.

8:24 AM - Freshman infielder Josh Scheffert and the entire team meet for a mandatory team breakfast in one of the conference rooms at the hotel.

11:03 AM - Stretching and conditioning are a key part of the baseball routine.

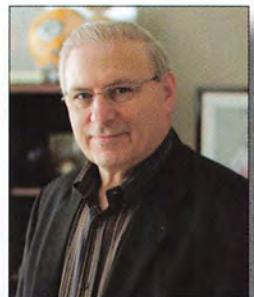
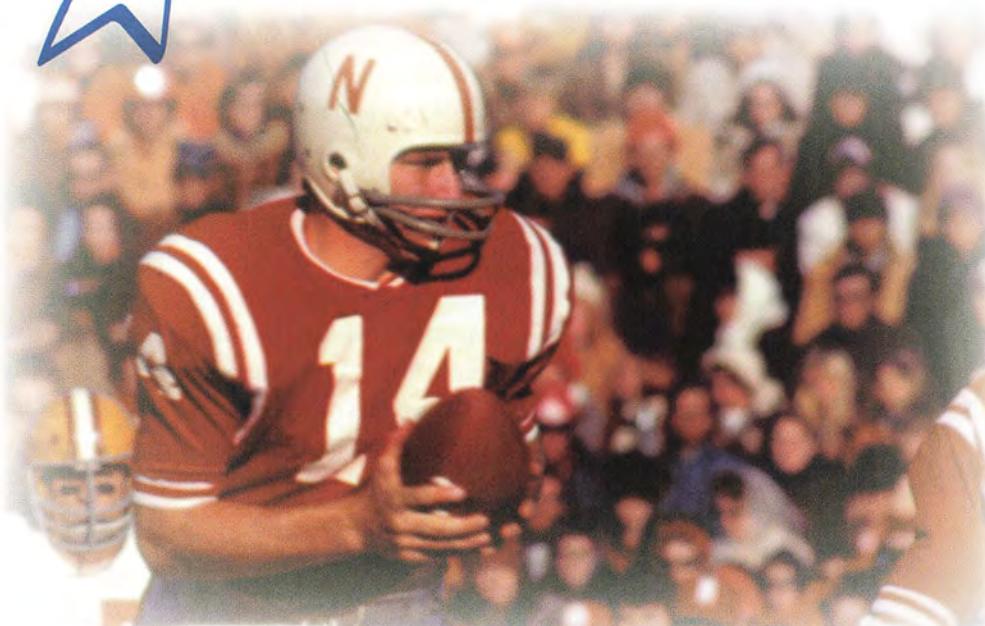
11:09 AM - Baseballs wait for relievers to spring into action.

4:18 PM - Following the game, players catch up with friends and family that were able to attend the game.



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# Women's Basketball

KELSEY GRIFFIN



BY CURT MCKEEVER

## No explaining dramatic season for Husker women

till trying to figure out how the Nebraska women's basketball team had the kind of season it did?

Stop.

NU becoming the 14th NCAA Division I team to produce a perfect regular-season record makes about as much sense as taking on a lineup of six players - something the Huskers faced for a brief moment in their second-round NCAA Tournament game against UCLA.

Winning your first Big 12 championship by five games is about as likely as having a shot hit the rim and then come to rest on the back iron - something a Kentucky player did during the NCAA regional semifinal in Kansas City.

Watching Kelsey Griffin come back from an ankle injury that threatened her career and then play at an All-America level was about as surprising as watching Griffin wind up as the third pick of the WNBA Draft by the Minnesota Lynx and then 20 minutes later get traded to the Connecticut Sun.

These kinds of things just make you shake your head in amazement. But don't spend too much time on what's logical. Just enjoy it for what it was.

Right, Connie Yori?

"What makes me happy is having good young women in our program who want to do the right things and be team-oriented. That's

what made this year special," Nebraska's coach said after the season ended earlier than hoped with a 76-67 loss to Kentucky. "This wouldn't be nearly as enjoyable had we had selfishness and pettiness."

"They've done a lot more than just get us over the hump. They were just about being great teammates, working every day to get better, and there's nothing more that you can ask for as a coach."

Oh, but she and her program got much, much more.

As one of the last two unbeaten teams in the country, and one of four No. 1 seeds for the NCAA Tournament, the Huskers were a regular on ESPN "SportsCenter" and graced the pages of some newspapers that in the past would have questioned running scores of their games.

Even after their second and last loss of the year, NU got some pub - which isn't so bad. Visibility helps in recruiting and doesn't hurt in creating fan interest.

"Our players were going to play equally as hard and do a lot of the things we did whether we had 10,000 people (in attendance) or not," Yori said. "That's not important to us, nor should it be... (But) our entire season has gotten our recruits a little more excited about us."

Yori understands the quest to capture the public's interest is never-ending, and short of an unlikely repeat of this season you wouldn't figure on NU matching the Big 12-leading average of 11,383 that came to the Devaney Sports Center for league games this season.

But what definitely came from her 2009-10 club doing what it did was make Yori believe there's more to accomplish than what she first thought was possible after arriving from Creighton eight years ago.

"This team went several steps ahead of where we've been," she noted. "I don't see an every-year thing, but it can happen in cycles. We can make runs like we did."

Nebraska will have to move forward

minus six seniors who provided the program with its first stretch of three NCAA Tournament berths in four years. Besides Griffin, forward Cory Montgomery and guard Vonnie Turner were first-team All-Big 12 picks as seniors. Montgomery also was taken by the New York Liberty with the 25th pick of the WNBA Draft.

The Huskers will start over with two returning starters - point guard Lindsey Moore, a member of the league's All-Freshman team, and guard Dominique Kelley, a starter in every game of her first three seasons and who finished her junior year with back-to-back, career-high 22-point performances.

Experienced forward Catheryn Redmon figures to have an increased role as a senior, and guard Kaitlyn Burke, a regular starter as a sophomore two years ago, will be back after missing most of this season with a foot injury.

The incoming class of five freshmen includes at least two - 6-foot-2, do-it-all forward Jordan Hooper of Alliance and Rebecca Woodberry, a 5-10 guard from Phoenix recently named The Arizona Republic's big schools player of the year - who could have instant impact.

No wonder Griffin is expecting the Huskers to remain in the public eye, and grateful for having been a part of the group who put them there.

"This year has definitely helped me to fall back in love with basketball," she said, "and I can't thank my teammates enough."

## POSTSEASON HONORS

Not surprisingly, Yori won most of the national coach of the year honors after guiding Nebraska to the biggest turnaround in Division I from last season.

Not one to place much importance on such honors, Yori did allow that being named the inaugural winner of the Kay Yow Award was special. The

Yow Award is named for the former North Carolina State head coach who succumbed to cancer, and honors a coach who embodies not only a winning spirit but also displays great character both on and off the court.

"In a lot of ways, this award might be more significant than some of the other coach-of-the-year awards because the Yow Award takes into account more than winning," Yori said. "It also recognizes a coach who is trying to instill the values of character and leadership in student-athletes both on and off the court.

### 2009-10 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Nov. 3	Pittsburg State (exh), W, 68-54
Nov. 8	Nebraska-Kearney (exh), W, 89-47
Nov. 13	Davidson, W, 86-62
Nov. 15	at UNLV, W, 73-51
Nov. 19	Idaho State, W, 88-41
Nov. 22	Washington State, W, 107-54 <i>Saint Mary's Hilton Tournament</i>
Nov. 27	UALR, at Moraga, Calif., W, 62-45
Nov. 28	at Saint Mary's College, W, 84-73
Dec. 3	South Dakota, W, 77-38
Dec. 5	Miami, at Coral Gables, Fla., W, 76-71
Dec. 9	Creighton, W, 69-56
Dec. 13	Northern Illinois, W, 69-44
Dec. 20	#5 LSU, W, 77-63
Dec. 30	at Colorado, W, 88-41
Jan. 4	at Vermont, W, 94-50
Jan. 9	at Iowa State, W, 57-49
Jan. 12	#19 Texas, W, 91-79
Jan. 16	at #9 Baylor, W, 65-56
Jan. 23	Kansas State, W, 71-56
Jan. 27	at Texas Tech, W, 89-47
Jan. 30	at Colorado, W, 80-64
Feb. 3	Oklahoma State, W, 88-67
Feb. 6	Texas A&M, W, 71-60
Feb. 10	at Kansas, W, 67-60
Feb. 13	at Missouri, W, 82-78
Feb. 17	#13 Iowa State, W, 60-50
Feb. 20	Colorado, W, 89-73
Feb. 24	at #11 Oklahoma, W, 80-64
Feb. 27	Missouri, W, 67-51
Mar. 3	Kansas, W, 77-52
Mar. 6	at Kansas State, W, 82-72 <i>*at Big 12 Championships</i>
Mar. 12	vs. Kansas State, W, 63-46
Mar. 13	vs. #11 Texas A&M, L, 80-70 <i>at NCAA Tournament</i>
Mar. 21	vs. Northern Iowa, W, 83-44
Mar. 23	vs. #22 UCLA, W, 83-70
Mar. 28	vs. Kentucky, L, 76-67 <i>* Big 12 Championships, Kansas City, Mo.</i> <i>** NCAA Tournament, Minneapolis, Minn.</i>



### **HAWAIIAN ROAD-GRADE** – **TONIU FONOTI**

was from Hauula, Hawaii. He was listed at 6-foot-4 and 340 pounds. And he was all of that. He was just the third Cornhusker offensive lineman to earn a letter as a true freshman, in 1999. He started at guard alongside fellow Hawaiian Dominic Raiola, an All-America center, as a sophomore. And like Raiola, he declared for the NFL draft following his junior season. He was a second-round pick of the San

Diego Chargers. Despite playing only three seasons at Nebraska, Fonoti set a career record for pancake blocks with 379, including a single-season record 201 pancakes as a junior and a single-game record 32 pancakes against Texas Tech, also as a junior. Fonoti allowed no sacks and drew no penalties in 2001, when he was a finalist for the Outland Trophy and a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award, in addition to earning consensus All-America recognition.

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# GAMES REMEMBERED

## NEBRASKA 27, OKLAHOMA STATE 13

OCT. 7, 1993 • AT STILLWATER, OKLA.

Two or three games a season might be decided by the kicking game, according to **TOM OSBORNE**. And this was the second about which that could be said in 1993.

Nearly three weeks earlier, Nebraska had escaped Pasadena, Calif., with a 14-13 victory against UCLA on the strength of kicking and defense.

The Oklahoma State game was televised by ESPN, on a Thursday night. Nebraska, which would play Florida State in the Orange Bowl with the national championship at stake, was ranked No. 7.

The victory was No. 200 in Osborne's Hall of Fame career. And the pivotal play came less than a minute into the fourth quarter when **BARRON MILES**, a 5-foot-8, 160-pound junior cornerback from Roselle, N.J., blocked a punt and fell on the ball for a go-ahead touchdown.

Miles, who said afterward he had told the Oklahoma State defender lined up across from him on the play that he was going to block the punt, also finished with eight tackles and one pass break-up to earn Big Eight defensive-player-of-the-week honors.

Oklahoma State ran 38 plays from scrimmage without punting in the first half. But Nebraska's defense took control after intermission, allowing only two first downs and 59 yards. The Cowboys went three-and-out on six of their last seven possessions.

**ED STEWART** led the Blackshirts with 12 tackles. All-America outside linebacker **TREV ALBERTS**, the Butkus Award winner in 1993, was credited with 10 tackles and set up Miles' punt block with a sack, his ninth of the season. Alberts pulled down freshman quarterback Tone Jones for a 9-yard loss at the Oklahoma State 2-yard line, leaving the Cowboys with fourth-and-25.

### Nebraska 27, Oklahoma State 13

Nebraska	0	6	7	14	-	27
Oklahoma State	6	7	0	0	-	13

(OS) Lawson Vaughn 26 field goal

(OS) Vaughn 29 field goal

(N) Byron Bennett 28 field goal

(OS) Louis Adams 1 run (Vaughn kick)

(N) Bennett 26 field goal

(N) Tommie Frazier 4 run (Bennett kick)

(N) Barron Miles 2 return punt block (Bennett kick)

(N) Calvin Jones 44 run (Bennett kick)

**Attendance:** 35,580

Osborne received the obligatory Gatorade shower afterward for victory No. 200. Defensive tackle **KEVIN RAEMAKERS** immediately accused defensive end **DONTA JONES** of instigating the shower.

**TOM OSBORNE:** "I'm not trying to be modest. It's just that I don't feel like I've ever personally won a game."

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

► Osborne joined 11 others with 200 or more coaching victories in NCAA Division I-A. Two were active: Penn State's Joe Paterno (252) and Florida State's Bobby Bowden. The all-time leader was Bear Bryant (323), followed by Amos Alonzo Stagg (314) and Pop Warner (313).

► Nebraska extended an unbeaten streak against the Cowboys to 32, including 20 consecutive victories dating to a 17-17 tie at Stillwater in 1973, Osborne's first season as head coach.

► A dozen years later, while still playing in the Canadian Football League, Miles told the Omaha World-Herald that blocking the punt against Oklahoma State was the highlight of his career. He blocked seven kicks in three seasons as a Cornhusker (1992-93-94).



BARRON MILES

# CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

## ACROSS

- NU's bowl game after last season
- Defensive end from Denver
- Winning team in Spring Game
- Wears No. 5 (offense)
- Wears No. 7 (offense)
- Opponent in 2010 Big 12 opener
- Rex Burkhead's home state
- Caught 72-yard touchdown pass in Spring Game
- Receiver who completed pass in Spring Game
- Roy Helu's home state
- Intercepted pass in Spring Game
- First road opponent in 2010
- Running backs coach
- Opponent in 2010 opener
- Center from Omaha
- 2010 Homecoming opponent

## DOWN

- Leading receiver in Spring Game
- Leader in passing yardage in Spring Game
- Wears No. 7 (defense)
- Oct. 13 opponent
- 2012 non-conference opponent
- Wears No. 5 (defense)
- 2011 non-conference opponent
- Network for NU-Kansas State telecast
- Defensive coordinator
- Nov. 13 opponent
- Recently donated \$2.6 million to NU
- Leading tackler in Spring Game
- Kicked 3 field goals in Spring Game
- Leading rusher in Spring Game
- Defensive lineman named to Lott Trophy Watch List
- Scored first touchdown of Spring Game
- Offensive coordinator

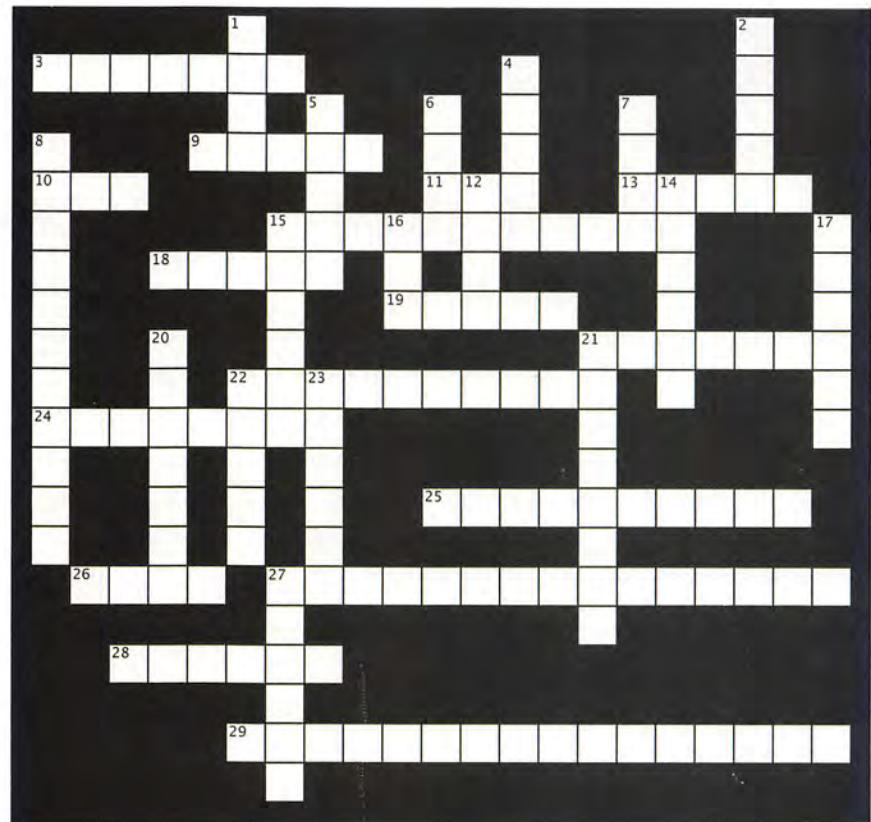
Answers will appear in the June/July issue

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## BRAIN BUSTER

I was a quarterback, a much-publicized recruit before there were 5-star rankings. I played for both Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne. My brother Tom was a defensive back on the 1971 Cornhusker freshman team. My dad worked at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. Oh yes, I was left-handed. Who am I?

Answer will appear in our next issue

APRIL ANSWER: 1965

## APRIL CROSSWORD SOLUTION





## THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Watson gives "bounceroosky" a 9.5

**SHAWN WATSON** accepted the request good-naturedly, even though it probably did have a kind of Dancing-With-the-Stars feel to it. Nebraska's offensive coordinator was asked to give each of the spring intrasquad game's two player-selected trick plays a score from 1 to 10.

On the first of the plays, Red team I-back Rex Burkhead lined up in a Wildcat formation, with quarterback Taylor Martinez beside him. Burkhead took a direct snap from center and passed to Prince Amukamara, who was split out wide to Burkhead's right, near the sideline.

Amukamara – yes, the Huskers' All-Big 12 cornerback – caught Burkhead's pass, and was immediately tackled by Terrence Moore and Pierre Allen for a 4-yard loss.

On the second of the plays, White team quarterback Cody Green passed to Mike McNeill, who was split out wide to Green's left. The pass was backwards, and behind the line of scrimmage. The ball bounced into the hands of McNeill, who passed to Niles Paul. The play gained 37 yards.

Watson gave the second play a 9.5 score, noting it didn't earn a 10 because of McNeill.

"They could have found a better guy to throw it (downfield)," Watson said with a laugh. "He'll love that because every day he's on me. He comes out

in the quarterback drills and he throws with the quarterbacks. He goes, 'Wats, check my arm out.' He thinks he's a quarterback."

McNeill wouldn't have subtracted 5-tenths of a point. In discussing the play with reporters, he said the pass "wasn't a perfect spiral, but I was under pressure, and it was a back-shoulder throw. So I'm saying I've got a good shot at the back-up quarterback job...I think so."

Watson gave the first play "like a 2, man, I have no idea what that thing was. That one there was for Prince," he said. "Prince wanted to be on the field as an offensive player. He always has. So he talked the younger player, poor Taylor Martinez, into letting him design that play."

A flaw in the Red team's play design probably contributed to Watson's 2. It almost certainly contributed to the 4-yard loss. Amukamara was wearing a white jersey.

"It kind of ruined the play," said Burkhead. "I thought it was a good pass. There wasn't much there, so that kind of made it hard. But I thought it was all right."

For long-time Husker fans, the Green-to-McNeill-to-Paul bit of trickery elicited memories of the Oklahoma game at Memorial Stadium on the day after Thanksgiving in 1982.

Early in the second quarter, with the Huskers trailing 10-7, quarterback Turner Gill bounced a backward pass to wingback Irving Fryar, who relaxed for an instant to freeze the defense, scooped up the ball and passed down the field to tight end Mitch Krenk, who made a juggling catch.

Sooner safety Scott Case, wasn't fooled. But the play gained 37 yards, and three downs later, Nebraska scored a touchdown to take the lead for good, on the way to a 28-24 victory.

A radio announcer called the play the "bounceroosky."

The "roosky" suffix was bound in Husker trick-play tradition. It was first used in 1975, when a Husker fake punt was called the "Bummoosky," so named because former NFL coach Bum Phillips had been credited with designing it. Then in 1979, Nebraska first used the "fumbleroosky," a play that involved an intentional quarterback fumble, which was picked up and advanced by an offensive guard.

Because of a change in NCAA rules in the early 1990s, the "fumbleroosky" is no longer legal.

Colorado had used a "bounceroosky" against Nebraska several years before. That's where Tom Osborne got the idea. Green got the idea from watching a highlight tape.

And Watson gave it a 9.5. **N**

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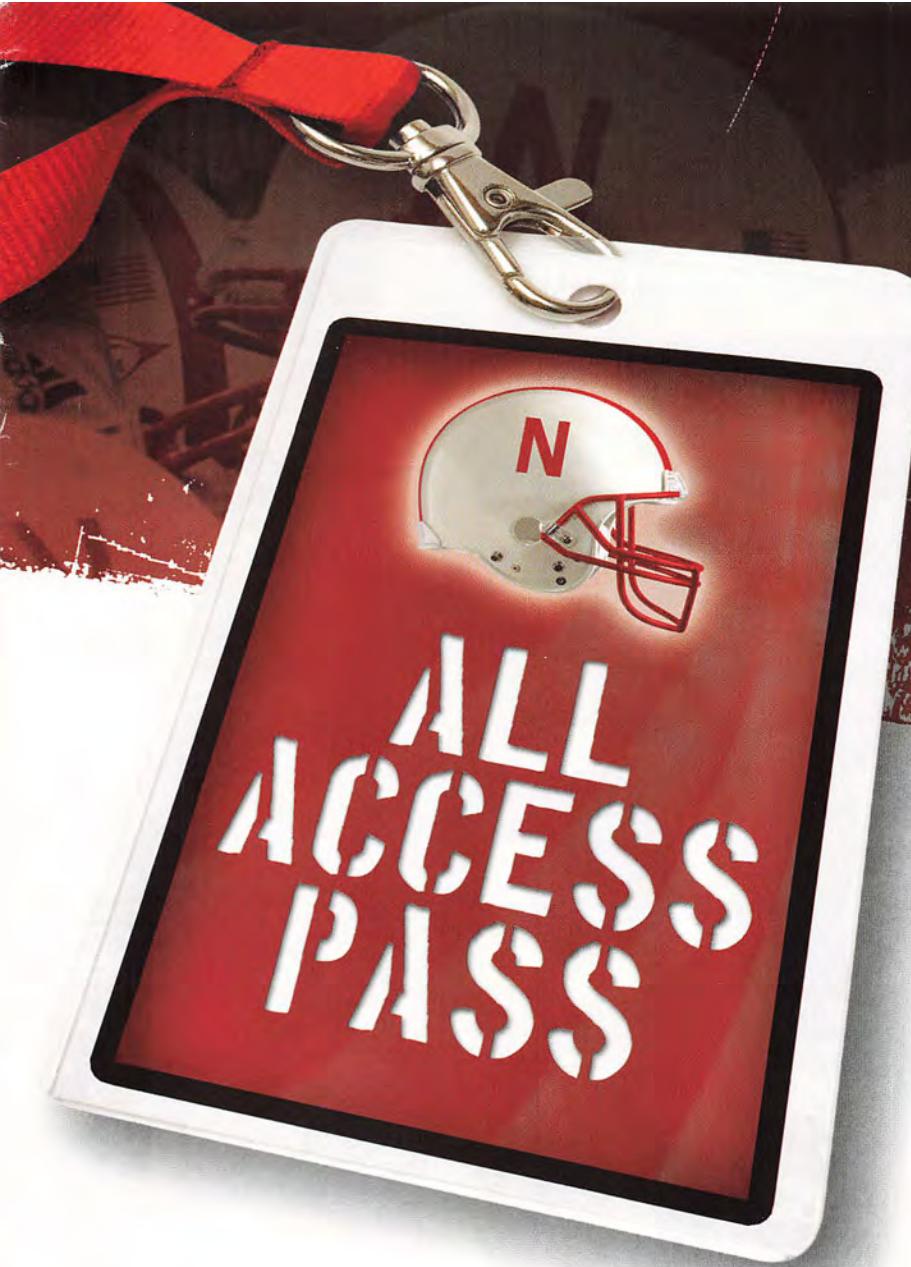
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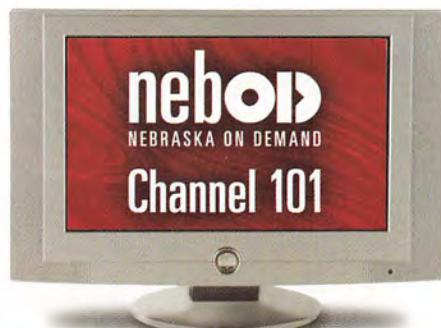
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